

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Spring 1993 Volume 63 Number 2



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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Spring 1993

Volume 63, Number 2

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FRONT COVER: Carolina Wren in Ida County, 17 January 1993. Photograph by Don Eggensee, Ida Grove, Iowa.

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

\* 17-19 September 1993 , Spencer  
20-22 May 1994, Ames

## FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

- \*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)
- \*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)
- \*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010)
- \*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

\*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

## IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

## I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010):

- \*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.
- \*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1992 Edition: 6 for \$1.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

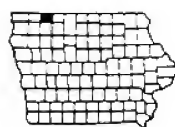
Please send address changes/corrections to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

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# BIRDING PRAIRIE POTHOLE HABITAT WEST OF SPIRIT LAKE

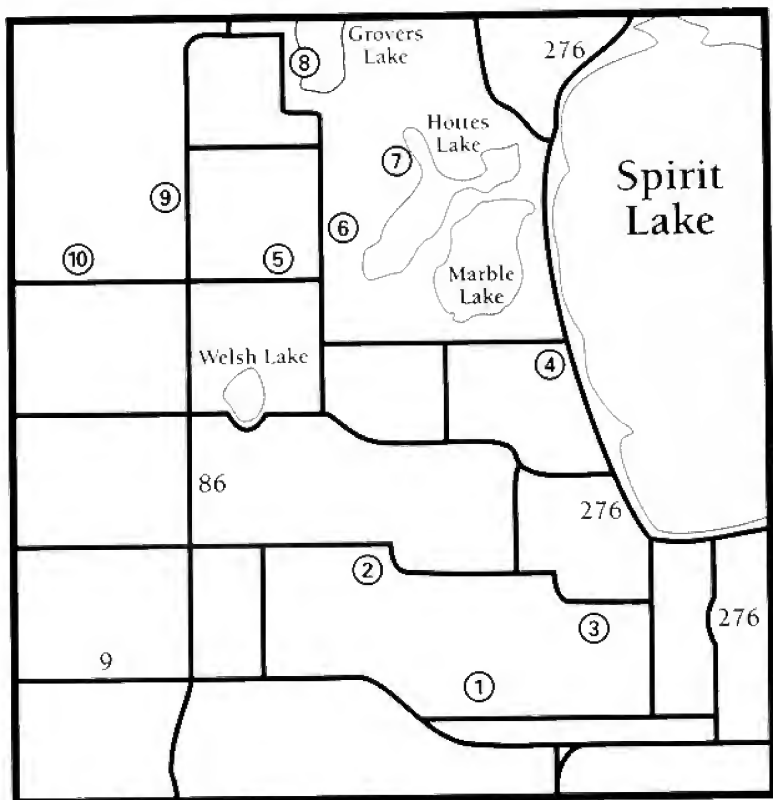
JAMES J. DINSMORE AND LEE A. SCHOENEWE

The area west of Spirit Lake contains some of the best wetland habitat remaining in Iowa. Located on the western edge of the part of Iowa that was covered by the Wisconsin glacier some 12-14,000 years ago, this area has very rolling terrain with numerous knobs, moraines, and other glacial features. Between these there are numerous depressions that historically held water. Although many of the basins have been drained, the rough topography in this area tended to discourage landowners from draining many of the wetlands and consequently numerous wetlands have never been drained. Other drained basins have been restored to wetland conditions in recent years. Fortunately, many of these wetlands are publicly owned and thus are easily accessible to birders. An earlier birding article discussed the Kettleson Hogsback-Hottes Lake area and several other wetlands (Harr, D., *Iowa Bird Life* 57:1-3, 1987). That article will be referred to several times below so you can visit areas described in both articles. Several wetland species are common nesters on virtually every wetland throughout this region and will not be mentioned further. These include Yellow-headed Blackbird, Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Duck.



Begin your tour by the Dickinson County courthouse in downtown Spirit Lake at the intersection of highways 9 and 276. Drive west on highway 9 for 2.1 miles and make a sharp right turn onto 153rd Street. Proceed east 0.5 miles and turn left onto a narrow gravel road that crosses the railroad tracks and proceeds to a parking area in a grove of bur oak trees. This lot overlooks Jemmerston Slough (#1 on Map 1), a 752-acre marsh that is one of the premier wetlands in northwestern Iowa. In a recent study of marsh birds, this wetland had the greatest variety of nesting species of 30 wetlands studied. From the parking lot, you have a somewhat elevated view of the marsh. Pied-billed Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Redhead, and American Coot all nest here and are often visible from this point. Black Tern, Forster's Tern, and Black-crowned Night Herons have nested several times in recent years, and when present, are usually visible from the parking lot. Sora, Virginia Rail, and in some years, King Rail are found here and may be heard or seen along the edges of the cattails. Tape-recorded calls will often elicit a response. In the evening, flocks of Wood Ducks often fly to this marsh to roost. Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, American White Pelican, and Double-crested Cormorant are all common here in migration and frequently are found here in summer as well although they don't nest here. White-faced Ibis nested here in 1986, the only time the species has nested in Iowa.

Yellow Warbler, Warbling Vireo, and Northern Oriole are usually found in the oak trees at the parking lot and in migration numerous other woodland song birds can be found here. Additional views of the marsh can be made by following paths that proceed to both the west and the east. The east path soon leaves the oaks and provides a good view of both the main marsh and another pool to the east. Jemmerston Marsh is a good marsh to canoe in. Generally, there are a series of open pools of water that provide you with access to much of the marsh. Many of the marsh birds can best be seen from a canoe and this is one of the best areas for that activity.



Map 1. Birding locations west of Spirit Lake. Circled numbers correspond to birding locations discussed in the text.

Retrace your path back to highway 9 and turn right (west). Drive 1.8 miles to the intersection of highway 9 with highway 86 (locally called Vic's corner). Along this route you will pass a large pool of Jemmerson Slough that is hidden by the oak trees as well as several smaller ponds on private land. These are worth checking for birds. Traffic on 9 moves rapidly but there are broad shoulders to pull off onto. At Vic's corner, turn right onto highway 86 and drive north one mile and turn right onto 140th Street. Note your odometer reading at this turn and use it as a landmark to several potential stops as you drive east 3.7 miles on this gravel road. At 1.7 miles you will pass Horseshoe Lake (2) on your right, a state-owned marsh that may have many of the species found in Jemmerson but is less accessible. There is a small parking lot on the second curve that overlooks this small lake. From Horseshoe Lake east, much of the land on your right along this drive is state-owned and has been added to the Jemmerson Slough complex in recent years. The road is fairly high and from it you can look south toward Jemmerson Slough. A variety of waterfowl, gulls, raptors, and other species are often seen along this drive. At 3.2 miles there is another parking lot on your right (3). It overlooks a small wetland and provides access to several restored wetlands and grasslands. After 3.7 miles, the gravel road intersects with 240th Avenue. Turn left and drive north 0.5 miles to where it intersects highway 276. Turn left and follow highway 276 for 1.6 miles around the southwest shore of Spirit Lake and turn left onto 125th Street. Note that if you were to continue north on

276, you would come to access points to East Hottes and Marble lakes described in Harr's article. At the intersection of 276 and 125th Street, Kettleson W.P.A. (Waterfowl Production Area) is on your left (4). This recently acquired 134-acre area is a good example of a restored wetland complex. The wetlands were first flooded in 1992 and already a number of species are using them. The road provides a fairly good vantage point to see waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species.

Continue west on 125th Street for 1.8 miles to its intersection with 215th Avenue. Along the way, just past the intersection with 225th Avenue, you will pass the access road to Kettleson Hogsback Wildlife Area described in detail in the article by Harr. At the intersection of 125th Street and 215th Avenue, turn right and go north for 0.5 miles and turn left onto 120th Street. Proceed west for 0.2 miles and, just past a pond on your right, stop in a parking lot for the McBreen Wildlife Area (5). A fairly short walk to the north will take you to a high point that provides a good view of the whole McBreen area as well as both West Hottes Lake and Spirit Lake to the east. The ponds on the McBreen area usually have a good variety of ducks, both in migration and in summer as well as numerous other wetland birds. The McBreen area is another example of a group of restored wetlands. This area was formerly farmed but the basins were reflooded in 1989 and have rapidly returned to a relatively natural state. Besides the usual ducks and rails, American Bittern have been seen here in recent years and a Black Rail was seen here several years ago.

From the parking lot, retrace your path back to 215th Avenue. Turn left (north) and drive about 0.2 miles. Here you are at a high point (6) that provides a scenic view of West Hottes Lake (see article by Harr) to your right (east). This is a good vantage point to see the length of West Hottes and in particular the north end which is not visible from the parking lot at its south end. West Hottes is often used by American White Pelicans and flocks of hundreds of them are often seen here in migration. It is also a good place to find pelicans in summer. From this stop, continue north 0.1 mile to a parking lot on your left. This lot also provides access to McBreen Wildlife Area. Several wetlands near the road are visible if the vegetation is low.

After leaving McBreen Marsh, continue north on 215th Avenue for 1.2 miles. Along the way, most of the land on your right is state-owned and there are access points where you may want to stop. One, an old farm lane just before 110th Street, provides foot access to the north end of West Hottes Lake. This lane goes past a restored wetland and leads to a grove of trees on the edge of the lake where a farmstead once stood (7). Eventually 215th Avenue makes a sharp left and right turn and then reaches Grovers Lake access on your right. The boat ramp (8) at the end of this drive provides a good view of Grovers Lake (Fig. 1). Besides ducks, coots, and terns, this lake has also had a nesting colony of Black-crowned Night Herons in recent years and is a good place to look for both Eared and Western grebes. For listers, note that the north end of this lake is in Minnesota.

When you leave Grovers Lake, turn left and drive south for 0.8 miles to the intersection with 110th Street. Turn right and drive west for 1 mile to the intersection with highway 86. The state-owned Diamond Lake area (9) is to your west and southwest. The north end of this area is directly in front of you but may be difficult to access. The shoulder along highway 86 is narrow and hard to pull off on. Turn left onto 86 and drive south 0.5 miles to the entrance to the Diamond Lake area. This drive leads to a boat access and a wooded grove around part of Diamond Lake. Many of the same birds that were noted for Jemmerston Slough can

be found in this area. There is a hedge row along the entrance drive that is good for sparrows in migration. When you are finished at Diamond Lake, drive back to highway 86 and turn right. Drive south 0.5 miles to the next gravel road (120th Street), turn right (west) and proceed 1.0 miles along upland and hedgerow habitat to a parking area at the southwest corner of the Diamond Lake area (10). There you will find a small grove of evergreens which overlooks a stream that flows from another small wetland to pasture land just west of the area. There is access here to upland habitat bordering Diamond Lake. Blue Grosbeaks have been seen here, and the potential exists for other western species. From here, return to highway 86, turn right (south), and proceed 3 miles which will take you back to Vic's Corner and the junction with highway 9.



Figure 1. Birding at Grovers Lake (location 8 in text).

Because all of the areas described here are publicly owned, you don't need permission to enter any of them. However, these are popular hunting areas and in the fall you should expect to find hunters on most of them.

One hazard if you do any walking is ticks. They are very common here, especially in late spring and early summer and especially in the grassy areas. Rubber boots may help keep them off you. As you might expect, chiggers are common later in the season.

Ornithologically, this region is most interesting from early March when waterfowl begin arriving through mid summer. You can expect to see hundreds to thousands of ducks and geese here during spring migration and somewhat fewer numbers in fall. American White Pelicans may number in the thousands here in spring and late summer. If the water conditions are low, these wetlands and adjacent flooded fields may have large concentrations of shorebirds in May and July through September. Historically, thousands of Lesser Golden-Plovers migrated through this region, and they are often seen here now, especially in May. One of the pleasures of birding this area is the number and variety of wetlands that are found here. There seems to always be another marsh over the next rise and you never know what you might find there.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010 and 518 W. 4th St., Spencer, IA 51301



# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1992-93

W. ROSS SILCOCK

The number of counts dropped from the 48 that were submitted last year. Weather and other considerations eliminated seven of these this year: Dubuque, Paullina, Alleman, Boone County, Sigourney, Ottumwa, and Oskaloosa. However one new count materialized, Van Buren County, to make a total of 42, the fewest for several years (Table 1). I am still looking for the elusive 50-count year!

Before going any further, I note with sadness the untimely passing of Erik Munson, who had compiled the Boone County count. Erik was an enthusiastic young birder whose refreshing sense of humor shone through in his reports. He is missed by all, particularly his compatriots in central Iowa.

As mentioned, some counts were casualties of the weather, although I have always thought that birds are easier to find in bad weather as they are often concentrated in sheltered areas. Ice and Impassable roads will stop the most intrepid birders, however. This was a generally colder and snowier winter than the past few, although weather data on count days submitted was not remarkable (Table 1). The windiest count was Eldora-Union, with 15-30 mph winds. This count was also one of the coldest, with temperatures from 4 to 20 degrees. Coldest was Wapsi-Great Western Line, which only made it to zero from -6. I wonder if this was why this count had the lowest species total of 25?

The highest species total was again at Davenport, with an outstanding total of 89; poor documentation of some species reduced the total from the potentially record-breaking 93 submitted (see later). Three other counts reached 70 in the Mississippi Valley: 78 at Keokuk, 76 at Burlington, and 70 at Clinton. One count reached 70 on the Missouri River, Shenandoah with an excellent 70, while outstanding "non-coastal" counts were 79 at Saylorville Reservoir and 77 at Rathbun. Best in the rather birdless Northern Third was Decorah at 46. Largest total of birds recorded was as usual in the Missouri Valley, where DeSoto N.W.R. had 158,517 birds, of which 145,200 were Snow Geese.

I believe that the best counts have at least two hours owling (preferably split between two parties) and two feeder parties, preferably more, as well as at least six field parties (perhaps fewer are adequate in the Northern Third, where habitat is less diverse). Of the 42 counts this year, six fit this profile. These six also were among the most successful in their regions in both species found and numbers of birds recorded: Davenport, Omaha, North Linn, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Rathbun.

Pete Petersen made an interesting suggestion regarding use of Eastern Screech Owl tapes to attract birds on CBCs: perhaps observers should report the number of times a tape is used so as to compare counts on this basis.

Overall species count was a very good 126, ranking fifth best. The last seven years have had the seven best annual species totals. The all-time species total is now 191, with the addition of a remarkable three this year: Surf Scoter at Davenport, Iceland Gull at Davenport (previous Iowa CBC reports were undocumented), and Pine Warbler at Iowa City. Nobody came up with information to add back any of the species I deleted from this list last year due to inadequate documentation.

Table 1. Site Data for 1992-93 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Field Obs	Miles Pts	Miles Hr	Owling Ft	Feeder Hr	Temp Mi	Snow Hr	Wind Pt	Depth
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>												
1. YellowRivFor	28Dec	49	2948	10	5	32	234	12	1	5	1	24 34 5
2. Clinton	2 Jan	70	11216	11	4	38	429	8	5	53	0	19 28 1
3. Princeton	17Dec	57	6487	8	4	33	354	6	5	74	2	4 27 30 0
4. Davenport	20Dec	89	21247	26	11	65	450	19	7	49	12	24 10 29 0
5. Muscatine	27Dec	63	13367	11	5	36	396	9	4	44	4	8 23 41 0
6. Oakville	18Dec	71	17989	7	4	38	343	10	5	64	0	0 28 32 0
7. Burlington	19Dec	76	9933	13	5	44	310	32	4	20	8	32 30 36 0
8. Keokuk	27Dec	78	47180	13	6	38	397	15	0	0	3	9 24 38 0
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>												
9. Sioux City	26Dec	48	5137	13	5	28	113	20	2	5	4	28 11 41 1
10. DeSoto NWR	20Dec	50	158517	20	7	56	379	19	0	0	0	15 25 0
11. Omaha, NE	19Dec	56	6077	33	13	78	543	34	7	47	1	8 18 28 3
12. Glenwood	27Dec	53	4872	7	3	28	365	2	1	2	0	0 26 48 0
13. Shenandoah	19Dec	71	14907	13	5	42	451	15	1	1	11	29 18 31 0
14. Tristate	26Dec	43	2943	8	2	17	233	4	1	3	0	0 14 43 0
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>												
15. Decorah	26Dec	46	3741	10	5	34	291	11	1	6	0	0 -4 15 5
16. Wapei-WLine	31Dec	25	1017	2	2	12	55	5	0	0	15	60 -6 0 6
17. Bremer Co.	19Dec	40	1703	8	3	21	319	3	0	0	0	18 30 6
18. Mason City	19Dec	45	5891	17	6	43	316	15	0	0	5	4 12 22 2
19. Spirit Lake	19Dec	36	10745	8	4	31	258	7	0	0	33	74 6 12 2
20. Cherokee	19Dec	44	4893	10	5	34	345	4	1	5	4	12 12 26 1
21. Westfield	3 Jan	35	1257	5	3	21	129	18	1	6	1	3 18 24 2
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>												
22. Lost Nation	21Dec	48	4957	16	5	41	468	9	1	10	4	4 25 30 0
23. North Linn	2 Jan	46	3982	15	6	45	290	19	7	87	4	22 12 26 3
24. Cedar Rapids	19Dec	64	13359	40	12	113	484	65	6	37	20	7 20 32 1
25. Iowa City	20Dec	64	6986	35	12	62	440	17	4	31	10	46 12 30 2
26. Amana	27Dec	46	1800	11	3	20	40	12	2	7	0	0 25 40 2
27. CedFalls-Wat	20Dec	45	4362	6	4	27	216	6	1	14	0	0 5 18 6
28. Marshalltown	19Dec	40	2098	18	5	33	290	4	0	0	4	25 30 34 3
29. Eldora-Union	23Dec	37	1373	7	3	24	323	4	0	0	2	3 4 20 3
30. Ames	19Dec	59	13121	38	16	88	339	30	0	0	14	21 20 25 1
31. Saylorsville	20Dec	79	11473	24	9	74	469	49	1	3	0	0 10 33 2
32. Des Moines	26Dec	59	18279	20	7	53	287	15	1	2	5	18 15 33 1
33. Jamaica	22Dec	61	19485	9	4	28	290	11	2	30	0	0 25 39 2
34. Sac County	18Dec	27	1223	8	4	20	155	30	0	0	2	5 26 36 0
35. Ida County	19Dec	45	2424	11	4	75	181	12	1	2	5	8 12 30 0
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>												
36. VanBuren Co	27Dec	35	1145	3	1	7	80	2	0	0	0	0 ? - ? ?
37. Rathbun	19Dec	77	8805	25	9	78	793	15	5	37	12	36 26 32 0
38. RedRockRes	19Dec	56	17224	7	4	32	243	9	2	12	1	4 14 28 3
39. Lucas	21Dec	33	1145	5	3	20	90	12	0	0	0	0 17 33 1
40. Lamoni	19Dec	35	2298	7	3	21	196	3	0	0	2	2 22 31 0
41. Union County	3 Jan	38	2702	2	1	10	72	2	1	5	3	6 33 40 0
42. Montgom.Co	2 Jan	34	2095	12	5	28	20	9	1	1	3	15 30 30 0
<b>TOTAL</b>			412,485									

## REGULAR SPECIES

In general this was an unspectacular year in terms of high or low numbers (Table 2). We still await some type of northern finch invasion; Pine Siskins were all we had this year, but how about some real goodies?

Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase its CBC numbers to this year's high of 69; 114 have been counted in the last three years but only 11 the prior seven years. There were 33 at Keokuk. Similarly, American White Pelican has

occurred four of the last five years. Great Blue Heron was at a 10-year high of 75 birds, 47 at Burlington.

Table 2. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1992-93.

Location	Do Cr	Gr Bl	Gr Wh	Sn Go	Ca Go	Wo Du	Gr Wi	Am Bl	Ma	No Pi	No Sh	Am Ga	Re Wi	Ca Re	Ri Ne	Gr Le	Co Sc	Ho Bu	Me
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>																			
1. Yellow Riv. For.					1		5	539											
2. Clinton		1			332		85	760		4	2							1	10
3. Princeton					596		1	95									1	49	
4. Davenport	4	3			524	4	1	29	2653	7		8	21	2	1		17	691	2
5. Muscatine		2			970			5	2263	2								21	
6. Oakville		1	3		115	17	220	4015				13	12		1	2			
7. Burlington		47			380	1		28				5	20		4		106	37	2
8. Keokuk	33			4	531	2		4	356			3	2	1	3	2	33	535	4
Subtotal	38	56	0	4	3449	7	18	349	10709	9	4	31	12	43	4	10	2	157	1334
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>																			
9. Sioux City		1			81	1		3019	1		3							10	
10. DeSoto NWR			1	145200	1155			3426	2							8	219	2	
11. Omaha, NE		2	3	5	527		1	393							2		1	146	
12. Glenwood				1	15			55										3	
13. Shenandoah		1		4425	190	8	2	5211	17	3	14	2		9	77	2	39	16	1
14. Tristate		1			120														
Subtotal	0	5	4	149631	2088	1	9	2	12104	20	3	17	2	0	9	79	2	48	394
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>																			
15. Decorah					12														
16. Wapsi-West. Line																			
17. Bremer County					55												1		
18. Mason City		1			942			551											
19. Spirit Lake					8125			3										17	
20. Cherokee					11	2		43						1					
21. Westfield																		2	
Subtotal	0	1	0	0	9145	2	0	597	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	19
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>																			
22. Lost Nation					102			16											
23. North Linn		1			99		1	40											
24. Cedar Rapids	1	2			1703	3		1361									138	1	6
25. Iowa City				1	230			222	1		2							1	
26. Amana		1						3											
27. Ced. Falls-Waterloo					218			439											
28. Marshalltown				20	225														
29. Eldora-Union					37			14											
30. Ames				120	373			11						1			1	1	
31. Saylorville Res.	1	1			573	2	1	75			1		4	2	2	19	358		1
32. Des Moines		1		1	611		2	863		6	3	5					32		
33. Jamaica		2	6	22	9338	1	8	8044	3		1	5			2				1
34. Sac County								5											
35. Ida County		1	1	2	792			70											
Subtotal	2	9	7	166	14301	6	0	1211163	4	6	7	10	0	5	4	2	20	529	2
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>																			
36. Van Buren Co.																			
37. Rathbun	29	4	1	2	1197		1	331	2	1	1	2			7	15	38		1
38. Red Rock Res.					125		4	348								3	7	83	
39. Lucas					200														
40. Lamon					827														
41. Union County			2	1	2000			40					1				1		2
42. Montgomery Co.																			
Subtotal	29	4	3	3	4349	0	1	5	719	2	1	1	2	1	0	7	3	23	121
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>149804</b>	<b>33332</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>35292</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>2397</b>
	Do Cr	Gr Bl	Gr Wh	Sn Go	Ca Go	Wo Du	Gr Wi	Am Bl	Ma	No Pi	No Sh	Am Ga	Re Wi	Ca Re	Ri Ne	Gr Le	Co Sc	Ho Bu	Me
	Co	He	Go				Te	Du							Du				

Three of the four goose species recorded were in average numbers, but Canada Goose is booming, with an amazing 10-year high of 33,332, three times the 10-year

average. Canada Geese are found statewide with no notable preference for any region. The high count was 9,338 at Jamaica, followed by 8,125 at Spirit Lake. Only five counts did not record this species.

Table 2 B. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1992-93.

Location	Re	Re	Re	Sh	Co	No	Sh	Co	Re	Re	Re	Re	Re	Re	Re	Re	Re	Re	Re	Re
	Br	Ru	Ba	No	Sh	Co	No	Sh	Ta	Le	Am	Gr	Ne	Wi	No	Am	Co	Bi	He	
	Me	Du	Ea	Ha	Ha	Ha	Go	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ke	Me	Pa	Ph	Tu	Bo	Co	Ki	Sn	Gu
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																				
1. Yellow Riv. For.				18	2			2		49	6	4		1	20				2	1
2. Clinton	3			44	5	2	1		1	30	1	9		3	59			6	97	68
3. Princeton				153	2		1			17	5	26		7	16			2	252	202
4. Davenport	1	5		167	1	1	1	1		56	4	30		9	17	3	3		2	2913
5. Muscatine	1			105	1			1		45	5	27		19	2			1	1	300
6. Oakville				126	2		3	1	1	35	8	12		18		14	2	1	3	1146
7. Burlington	2			101	2	1	2	1	1	34	4	16		3	1				1	2180
8. Keokuk	3	2		234	4	3	2		1	19	2	11		2	50	52		1		3200
Subtotal	10	7		948	19	7	10	6	4	285	35	135	0	9	70	151	69	2	3	1510090
MISSOURI RIVER																				
9. Sioux City				4		2	1			18		7		7		12				
10. DeSoto NWR				35		2				19	1	9	1	14	18	23				
11. Omaha, NE		1		43		1				53		35	1	2	38					1
12. Glenwood				2	3	1				32		14								
13. Shenandoah		9		59	4		1			37		50		16	2	21	34			
14. Tristate				6	1	1				26	1	20			89	8				
Subtotal	0	10		149	8	7	2	0	0	185	2	135	2	0	39	147	64	34	0	0
NORTHERN THIRD																				
15. Decorah				8						47	13	5		24	37					
16. Wapsi-West. Line						1				2				6						
17. Bremer County					1					4	1	6		5	17					
18. Mason City				2		1				13		1		43						
19. Spirit Lake		1		3						1		1		10			76			
20. Cherokee				6		1				27	2	5		8	7					
21. Westfield				2		1	1			14		2		49	1	9				
Subtotal	0	1		21	1	4	1	0	0	108	16	19	1	13	156	38	9	76	0	0
MIDDLE THIRD																				
22. Lost Nation				30	4	3	2	2		50	10	21		60	25					
23. North Linn				8		1				21	6	7		29	6					
24. Cedar Rapids				24		1		1	1	44	4	30		7	2		2		13	11
25. Iowa City				16			2			64	12	19	1	16	6		2		2	77
26. Amana				7						12	8	4		12	80					
27. Ced. Falls-Waterloo				1						12	1	2		8	9	14				
28. Marshalltown										9	1	7		20	1	11				
29. Eldora-Union				2	1					26	7	5		27						
30. Ames					1	1	1			14	1	20		3	51	1				
31. Saylorville Res.				10	1	2	1	4		63	1	17	1	1	68	28			126	131
32. Des Moines				17						47		14	1		18				9	2
33. Jamaica		1				2	1	1		26	1	8		16	2		1	1		
34. Sac County				5						11	1	7		6						
35. Ida County										15	1	8	1	273		8				
Subtotal	0	1		120	7	9	8	8	1	414	54	169	4	12	594	183	19	5	0	1
SOUTHERN THIRD																				
36. Van Buren Co.				27	3					19	3	3	1		1				184	22
37. Rathbun				11	14	1	1	2		40		42	1	8	9	3	2		256	6
38. Red Rock Res.	12			59	1	1				17		2		2		5			1409	3538
39. Lucas				1	2					8	1	5								
40. Lamoni					4					15	1	18			6	6				
41. Union County										7	2	3				9	1			
42. Montgomery Co.				2						10		1			22	3				
Subtotal	12	0		100	24	2	1	2	0	116	7	74	2	0	36	19	23	1	2	0
TOTAL	22	19		1338	59	29	22	16	5	1108	114	532	9	34	895	538	184	118	5	16
	Re	Ru	Ba	No	Sh	Co	No	Re	Re	Ro	A	m	Gr	Re	Wi	No	Am	Ki	Co	Re
	Br	Du	Ea	Ha	Sh	Ha	Go	Sh	Ta	Le	Ke	Me	Pa	Ne	Tu	Bo	Co	Sn	Bi	Gu
	Me				Ha			Ha	Ha	Ha				Ph						Gu

In contrast, Mallard numbers were low, the 35,292 counted the third lowest in 10 years. Green-winged Teal and Northern Pintail showed similarly low numbers, with the other dabblers about average. Diving ducks were also average;

Canvasback was low at 44 birds, but numbers vary greatly depending on where the wintering flock locates on the Mississippi River. Common Merganser was abundant, the count of 12,858 a 10-year high, 9,500 of them were at Rathbun.

Table 2 C. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1992-93.

Location	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc	Gr Ho	Lo Ba	Sh Ea	No Ea	Re Be	Re He	Re Be	Ye Be	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Ho La	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Bl Ca	
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																				
1. Yellow Riv. For.	254	31	3	4				3	14	46		39	14	3	5	4	145	137	133	
2. Clinton	404	88	8	10	5		1	5	8	48	3	64	17	16	1	111	253	587	225	
3. Princeton	121	159	3	10	4		1	1	30	39		67	23	22	1	2	249	137	234	
4. Davenport	1130	356	8	17	9	1		2	20	51	4	126	18	24	4	57	245	994	648	
5. Muscatine	567	160	4	11	3	1		6	29	46		90	15	41	4	32	249	281	240	
6. Oakville	251	53	1	20	14			5	32	54	1	57	20	44	4	8	101	5140	257	
7. Burlington	212	43	1	2	1			4	10	29	1	28	9	33	3	1	121	769	162	
8. Keokuk	512	24	1	3	1			3	11	23	3	34	9	27	2	25	144	30000	147	
Subtotal	3451	914	29	77	37	2	0	2	29	154	336	12	505	125	210	24	240	1507	38045	2046
MISSOURI RIVER																				
9. Sioux City	139		3	4	1			5		18		47	22	19		29	37	457	157	
10. DeSoto NWR	67	1		2					8	53		58		131		46	122	47	148	
11. Omaha, NE	118	10	5	3	2	1		3		56	1	99	14	52		153	86	149	421	
12. Glenwood	99		1	3		1		1		46		53	8	15		20	90	145	233	
13. Shenandoah	75	6		3	1			3	2	17	1	25	4	16		139	19	50		
14. Tristate	33			3						18	2	14	4	8		29	45	193	88	
Subtotal	531	17	9	18	4	2	0	12	10	208	4	296	52	241	0	277	519	1010	1097	
NORTHERN THIRD																				
15. Decorah	157	8	5	2				4	16	55	1	45	16	7	2	1	266	296	101	
16. Wapsi-West. Line	11				1				2	9		15	4			23	79	46	58	
17. Bremer County	117	13							4	9		7	4	3			66	38	12	
18. Mason City	471	73	3	2	2			1	7			47	10	9		26	156	357	130	
19. Spirit Lake	16			3				1	1	10		84	33	6		6	117	75	314	
20. Cherokee	228		2	3				1	2	13		41	17	12		54	255	187	204	
21. Westfield	44			6						17		31	16	8		10	50	43	126	
Subtotal	1044	94	10	16	3	0	0	6	26	120	1	270	100	45	2	120	989	1042	945	
MIDDLE THIRD																				
22. Lost Nation	129	43	3	7	4			1	35	45		61	13	15	1	46	248	232	148	
23. North Linn	149	37	1	13	3				13	34		51	8	8	1	15	115	89	194	
24. Cedar Rapids	1512	290	3	13	10			7	21	54	2	159	20	27	2	21	188	1286	575	
25. Iowa City	263	138	2	8	8			2	3	27	52	2	130	23	26	27	187	665	389	
26. Amana	6	5	4	2	1			5	1	55	48		60	5	24	2	1	110	200	130
27. Ced. Falls-Waterloo	14	65	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	7		25	6	20		9	59	371	95	
28. Marshalltown	131	24			1			1	1	13		39	10	3		28	69	213	138	
29. Eldora-Union	35	1		1	1			1	3	12	1	20	7	8		110	53	62	28	
30. Ames	414	47	1	9	4	1	1	7	7	53	2	145	23	9		29	249	4500	459	
31. Saylorville Res.	219	15	2	13	7	1	1	4	4	3	157	21	51			65	214	639	336	
32. Des Moines	970	29	2	2	7			4	11	47	2	87	9	24	1	4	138	8200	273	
33. Jamaica	101	1	3	7	2	3	1	1	13	30		34	9	7		10	59	92	83	
34. Sac County	60			2						3		15	3				23	63	44	
35. Ida County	110	5		3	1	1				2		29	7	5		53	51	93	24	
Subtotal	4513	700	22	81	50	8	3	8	27	191	441	12	1012	164	227	7	418	1763	16705	2916
SOUTHERN THIRD																				
36. Van Buren Co.	2	24		1				1	13	7		3	1	6			24	81	43	
37. Rathbun	127	18	5	7	2	4		3	27	25		53	16	21		2	321	261	101	
38. Red Rock Res.	18	1		1	2			1		5		58	7	12		21	26	650	42	
39. Lucas	18	2		1						3		20		13		7	45	77	40	
40. Lamoni	37	9		3				8	2	1		9	4	15		3	58	25	63	
41. Union County	8		1	1						2		5		5			42	17	32	
42. Montgomery Co.	29			3		1	3	1		8		12	6			20	84	39	91	
Subtotal	239	54	6	17	4	5	3	0	6	48	52	1	160	34	72	0	53	600	1150	412
TOTAL	9778	1779	76	209	98	17	6	10	80	429	1157	30	2243	475	795	33	1108	5378	57952	7416
	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc	Gr Ho	Lo Ba	Sh Ea	No Ea	Re Be	Re He	Re Be	Ye Be	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Ho La	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Bl Ca	
	Do Do	Do Sc	Ow Ow	Ow Ho	Ow Ea	Ow Ea	Ow Sa	Ki He	He Wo	Be Be	Wo Sa	Wo Wo	Wo Wo	Fl Wo	Wo La		Ja Ja	Cr Cr	Ca Ch	

Raptors were their usual mixed bag. Turkey Vulture was found again this year, the fifth in the last 10 years, this time at Davenport. Bald Eagle continues to do well, the total of 1,338 the second highest in the last 10 years. Like Canada

Goose, Bald Eagle is distributed statewide, although 948 were in the Mississippi Valley and 145 in the Missouri Valley. A very good count of 16 Northern Goshawks is unmatched since the 1983-84 and 1984-85 CBCs, suggesting an eight- or nine-year cycle in Iowa.

Table 2 D. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1992-93.

Location	Re		Wh		Go										Ye		Ru		Am			
	Tu	Br	Br	Br	Ca	Wi	Cr	Ea	Am	No	Br	Ce	No	Lo	Eu	Ru	No	Si	Tr	Fi	Fo	
	Ti	Nu	Nu	Cr	Wr	Wr	Ki	Bl	Ro	Mc	Th	Wa	Sh	Sh	St	Wa	Ca	To	Sp	Sp	Sp	
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																						
1. Yellow Riv. For.	2	9	71	1		3	4		29			124	1		344		55			19		
2. Clinton	35	2	58	19	2	1	27		12			384			1730	4	316			1140		
3. Princeton	26		71	9	6		6		2			19			784		180			491	1	
4. Davenport	50	1	160	24	7	1	11	1	27	1		12			1856	1	655	1		658	2	
5. Muscatine	57		103	6	5		4	8	87			76			2690	1	277			792		
6. Oakville	18	1	37	16	3	1	6		2			7			2031	2	165			601	5	
7. Burlington	26	1	33	4	9	1	9	10	225	1		205			2016		182			316	1	
8. Keokuk	46	2	33	7	5	3	1	49	66			152	1		6765		137			96		
Subtotal	260	16	566	86	37	10	68	68	450	2	0	979	1	1	18216	8	1967	1		4113	5	4
MISSOURI RIVER																						
9. Sioux City			54	2			2		7	1					195		33			99		
10. DeSoto NWR		3	39	1			5	2	4	1	1	6			5733		76			238		
11. Omaha, NE	31	2	123	5	4		13	1	5			81			844		194			193		
12. Glenwood	30	1	80	4	3		8		12			56	1		1058	4	211	1		166	1	1
13. Shenandoah	2		25	4		1	2		6			356		8	1379		97			420		
14. Tristate	28	1	20	1	5		31					22	1		685		84	1		33		
Subtotal	91	7	341	17	12	1	61	3	34	1	2	521	1	9	9894	4	695	2		1149	1	1
NORTHERN THIRD																						
15. Decorah	12	6	59	7			5		3			239	1		599		102			175		
16. Wapsi-West. Line		10	39									6			15		32			3		
17. Bremer County			11	1			3		1						230		22			27		
18. Mason City		1	63	4			1		9			37	1		777		39			423	1	
19. Spirit Lake			95	9											362		9			208		
20. Cherokee		2	72	19			2		4			137	2		1308		26			251		
21. Westfield			64	1			1		253				2		77		21			92		
Subtotal	12	19	403	41	0	0	12	0	270	0	0	419	6	0	3368	0	251	0		1179	1	0
MIDDLE THIRD																						
22. Lost Nation	48	1	55	4			10								655		128			496		
23. North Linn	26	4	75	2				12	127			131			615	1	188			132		
24. Cedar Rapids	103	2	145	10	6		15	3	26			82	1		1864		485			304		
25. Iowa City	66	1	117	8	4	2	8	17	279			361			728		237			295	1	
26. Amana	12	2	60	1					1			10			60	1	55			250		
27. Ced. Falls-Waterloo		2	38	1					1			161	1		684		85			43		
28. Marshalltown	13		38	1					3	1	5	1			269		73			6		
29. Eldora-Union			14									1			189		65			7		
30. Ames	22	4	158	5		5	15		18			346	1		1805	1	262			82	3	
31. Saylorsville Res.	8	1	68	4		2	9	31	676	1		520	1		2511	5	183			1052		
32. Des Moines	18		83	4	3	1	2		124	1		203			4600	13	190	1		204		
33. Jamaica			33	1			6	1	1			61	1		398		45			169		
34. Sac County			23	1										1	446		13			52		
35. Ida County		1	24	2			11		1						83		8			167		
Subtotal	316	18	931	44	13	10	76	64	1257	1	2	1881	2	5	14907	21	2017	1		3259	1	3
SOUTHERN THIRD																						
36. Van Buren Co.	21		15		2		3	43	254			65			38		10					
37. Rathbun	7	3	47	5			8	2	14			444		4	1361	10	159			680	1	
38. Red Rock Res.	16		13		1				4			550	1		40		22			25		
39. Lucas	2		10				5	21	2			60	3		247		27			55		
40. Lamoni			5						19			130		6	158	1	4			246		
41. Union County	1	2	12					3	19			225			31		14			5		
42. Montgomery Co.			30				6					1	9		305		67			291		
Subtotal	47	5	132	5	3	0	22	69	312	0	1	1483	0	14	2180	11	303	0		1302	0	1
TOTAL																						
	726	65	2373	193	65	21	239	204	2323	4	5	5283	10	29	48565	44	5233	4		11002	8	9
	Tu	Re	Wh	Br	Ca	Wi	Go	Ea	Am	No	Br	Ce	No	Lo	Eu	Ye	No	Ru	Am	Fi	Fo	
	Ti	Br	Br	Cr	Wr	Wr	Cr	Bl	Ro	Mc	Th	Wa	Sh	Sh	St	Ru	Ca	Si	Tr	Sp	Sp	
		Nu	Nu				Ki									Wa		To				

Goshawks are now found annually. Accipiters overall were average in number, although Cooper's Hawk was up, equal to Sharp-shinned Hawk this year. There

are usually twice as many sharp-shins. Buteos were almost exactly at the respective species' 10-year averages. American Kestrel was in average numbers, but Merlin is doing well, the nine reported representing a 10-year high and a continuation of an upward trend.

Table 2 E. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1992-93.

Location	So Sp	Li Sp	Sw Sp	Th Sp	Wh Sp	Cr Sp	Ha Sp	Da Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	Re Bl	Me Sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Re Cr	Pl Si	Am Go	Ho Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																					
1. Yellow Riv. For.	6							189						10		46	28		4	42	474
2. Clinton	26		1	4	1			1054		1	197		3	1	19	28	35		9	214	2487
3. Princeton	40		3	1				499			64			4	1	18	45			147	107C
4. Davenport	82	5	16	40	2			940			810		16	21	118	5	150		37	295	2571
5. Muscatine	45	2	9	6				799			8			1		19	97	3	150	231	1991
6. Oakville	69	5	5	5	1			614			344		2	1		24	12		3	139	1795
7. Burlington	22		5	16				328	2		100	2	1	17	4	15	59		100	234	1412
8. Keokuk	18		3	4				427			513		3	4	113	6	48		4	118	205C
Subtotal	308	12	42	76	4	0		4850	2	1	2036	2	25	59	255	161	474	3	307	1420	1385C
MISSOURI RIVER																					
9. Sioux City	4					3		252			2	1	12	46			5	4	37	38	191
10. DeSoto NWR	4		2				24	437				50	3	2						121	857
11. Omaha, NE	8					8		460			89	52	2						119	221	865
12. Glenwood	7			8		42		1032			11	118		38	3		1		58	222	860
13. Shenandoah	7		2	3	1	41		210	1		331	77	5	43	14		81		2	114	1061
14. Tristate	4			6		25		421				122				2	8		223	77	433
Subtotal	34	0	4	17	1	143		2812	1	0	433	420	20	131	17	2	95	4	439	793	4267
NORTHERN THIRD																					
15. Decorah	5		3	1				280							1	27	51		9	99	928
16. Wapsi-West. Line					2			134								15	8			157	339
17. Bremer County	4		3	1				66		75			1	6	1	1	19			55	810
18. Mason City	5	1	1					279		35	336			7		12	40			32	944
19. Spirit Lake	23							123						16	91	11	48		9	123	658
20. Cherokee						11		303					8	1		39	34		57	152	1332
21. Westfield	2							39								3	2		69	28	167
Subtotal	39	1	7	4	0	11		1224	0	110	336	0	9	30	93	108	202	0	144	646	5178
MIDDLE THIRD																					
22. Lost Nation	20		3					641		2	18	12	6			10	68			74	135C
23. North Linn	7							462				1				13	30			68	1137
24. Cedar Rapids	65		5	11	3			532				13		1	15	7	141		17	271	168C
25. Iowa City	41		2	5	2			587	1			2		2	2	13	131		7	585	842
26. Amana	13							175			8	2		1	1	1	3		1	25	350
27. Ced. Falls-Waterloo								226	18	47	4			1	4	81		7	51	1124	
28. Marshalltown	2							123						1		25	81			35	448
29. Eldora-Union	2			3				129				18				1	35		3	59	385
30. Ames	48			7		17		513				6		8	8	9	80		2	175	2961
31. Saylorville Res.	102		33	4	12	51		826		5	58	7	1	1	2	45	17		16	660	791
32. Des Moines	15			5		1		3204				1	5	3			446		6	114	445
33. Jamaica	2							258			2	11				1	1	2		63	478
34. Sac County						5		48	100						14		1			26	232
35. Ida County	9							111		9	112	2			6		1	4	48	123	229
Subtotal	326	0	43	35	17	74		7835	119	63	204	78	7	38	29	131	1119	0	107	2329	1245C
SOUTHERN THIRD																					
36. Van Buren Co.	3							24								8				28	163
37. Rathbun	20		9	1	2			253				4	51		18	4	12	20	7	2	335
38. Red Rock Res.	5			2	1			13		2	18	22	1			2	12	3	17	108	357
39. Lucas	6							40				2				16	1			30	175
40. Lamoni								67				84		4		17	87			138	218
41. Union County								72				24				1	12			42	46
42. Montgomery Co.	2					9		289				4	1	53		3	2			18	670
Subtotal	36	0	9	3	3	9		758	0	2	22	187	1	76	4	59	134	10	19	699	3217
TOTAL																					
	So	Li	Sw	Wh	Wh	Ha	Da	La	Sn	Re	Me	Ru	Co	Br	Pu	Ho	Re	Pl	Am	Ho	
	Sp	Sp	Sp	Th	Cr	Sp	Ey	Lo	Bu	Wi	Sp	Bl	Br	He	Fi	Fi	Cr	Si	Go	Sp	
				Sp	Sp		Ju			Bl				Co							

Gallinaceous birds are doing poorly, except for Wild Turkey, although even the latter was only in average numbers. Only 34 Gray Partridges were found, a

decrease from the high of 586 in 1987-88. Similarly, only 184 Northern Bobwhite, down from a peak of 526, and 895 Ring-necked Pheasant, down from 2,753, were counted. These counts are surprising after a series of mild winters and an increase in set-aside pasture.

American Coots were numerous, the 118 counted about twice the 10-year average. Both Killdeer and Common Snipe were down, however, about half their 10-year averages. Surprisingly, most of the coots (76) were at Spirit Lake, and most of the rest (34) were at Shenandoah.

Among the gulls, both Ring-billed and Herring were found in average numbers, with a 2:1 ratio of Ring-bills to Herrings. During the last 10 years this ratio has varied wildly, from 15:1 to 1:58. Thayer's Gull is now found each year, this year's five birds the seventh year the species has been recorded, all in the last seven years.

Both Rock Dove and Mourning Dove were in average numbers. The latter were concentrated in the southeast, with 914 in the Mississippi Valley.

Owls were mixed; a good count of 10 Northern Saw-whet Owls was made and the rare Snowy Owl made its fifth appearance in the last 10 years. Of concern is the 10-year low of only six Short-eared Owls, although this may have been weather-related. Long-eared and Eastern Screech owls were also down, but not seriously so.

The 80 Belted Kingfishers found was about average; no count had more than seven.

Numbers of woodpeckers were average except for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the count of 30 a 10-year high and about twice the average. Only four were in the Missouri Valley, and one renegade was in the Northern Third at Decorah. Distribution of the other species is of interest also. About 75% of the Red-headed Woodpeckers were in the Mississippi Valley and Middle Third; only 10 were in the Missouri Valley. This species generally leaves the Missouri Valley in winter. Red-bellied Woodpecker is now evenly distributed statewide; even in the northwest, which it invaded this century, numbers were good. The ratio of Downy Woodpecker to Hairy Woodpecker is of interest; it tends to be higher towards the southwest, where it is 6:1 in the Missouri Valley and 5:1 in the Southern Third, than in the northeast, where it is 3:1 in the Northern Third and 4:1 in the Mississippi Valley. Northern Flicker was at a 10-year high this year at 795 birds, not much above the 10-year average of 638 however. Flickers were evenly distributed except for the Northern Third, where only 45 were found. Finally, Pileated Woodpecker, an eastern Iowa major river valley specialty, was found west only as far as Decorah in the Northern Third, and Des Moines in the Middle Third (there is a population extending through most of the Des Moines River Valley), but was unrecorded in the Southern Third.

Three field flocking species, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, were all very low this year. Only 1,108 Horned Larks were found, far below the average of 3,980, 122 Laplands versus the average of 906, and 176 Snow Buntings versus the average of 1,214. While Horned Larks were evenly distributed, 100 of the Lapland Longspurs were at Sac County and the rest widely distributed (I suspect most people listen for one or two and then forget this species when doing a CBC), and all but three of the Snow Buntings were in the Northern and Middle Thirds.

Blue Jay and American Crow numbers were somewhat above average. American Crow numbers are maintained each year by roosts; of the total of



57,952, 30,000 were at Keokuk, 8,200 at Des Moines, 5,140 at Oakville, and 4,500 at Ames.

Parids, nuthatches, and Brown Creeper all occurred in average numbers. The only Tufted Titmice in the Northern Third were the 12 at Decorah, and, as expected, none were in the northwest at Sioux City and DeSoto N.W.R. The other species, including Red-breasted Nuthatch, were widely and generally evenly distributed.

Carolina Wren continued to increase with a new 10-year high of 65 birds. The most northerly records were at Clinton, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Omaha, and high count was nine at Burlington. Similarly, Winter Wren is occurring in better numbers in recent years, this year's 21 birds close to a 10-year high. Recent mild winters have helped these two wrens.

Muscicapids generally did well, with a good count of nine species, including three Gray Catbirds and four Northern Mockingbirds, both 10-year high counts. There were also five Brown Thrashers, and the 2,323 American Robins was about twice the 10-year average.

High robin numbers may have indicated a good fruit crop. Cedar Waxwing numbers were also high with a 10-year high of 5,283. They were found statewide, including good counts of 550 at Red Rock Lake and 520 at Saylorville Reservoir.

For the first time in six years, more Loggerhead Shrikes were reported than Northern. The 29 loggerheads was a 10-year high, while the 10 northern was below average. The total of 40 shrikes was about average. Loggerheads were found as far north as Cedar Falls-Waterloo and Ames, rather unusual for recent years, wherein most have been in the southern two rows of counties. Northern were found south to Amana, as expected, but one at Glenwood was rather far south.

Warblers were well-represented this year, believe it or not, with two species. Totally unexpected were two Pine Warblers (see below), but also amazing was the 44 Yellow-rumped Warblers reported. By far a 10-year high, with a previous best of 11 in 1988-89, most were in the south half of Iowa, with four as far north as Clinton in the Mississippi Valley, a great count of 13 was at Des Moines, one was north as far as Ames, and in the Missouri Valley there were four at Glenwood.

Slightly fewer than average Northern Cardinals were counted, at 5,233, the high count 655 at Davenport. Only four Rufous-sided Towhees were found, compared to the average of eight. American Tree Sparrow was at a 10-year low, if you could call 10,950 birds a low. Nevertheless, the 10-year average for this species is 14,685, and 23,746 were counted in 1989-90. The eight Field Sparrows was about average, but a little lower than recent years, while only nine Fox Sparrows were found, below the average of 18 birds. Song, Lincoln's and Swamp sparrows were up, although none were near 10-year highs. Among *Zonotrichia* sparrows, White-throated was unusually plentiful, with 135 found, while Harris's was about average, and White-crowned made a 10-year low of only 25 birds. White-throats were as far north as Decorah, Wapsi-Great Western Line, and Bremer County, while half of the white-crowns were at Saylorville Reservoir. Harris's Sparrow is now found in good numbers east to the Des Moines River Valley in central Iowa, where 51 were at Saylorville Reservoir, with others at Ames and Des Moines. Dark-eyed Junco numbers were average at 17,479.

Among the icterids, the absence of large concentrations of blackbirds resulted in a fairly low Red-winged Blackbird count of 3,031, two-thirds of which were in the

Mississippi Valley. Meadowlarks reached a 10-year high however of 687, two-thirds of which were on the opposite side of the state in the Missouri Valley; surprisingly only two birds were counted in the Mississippi Valley. Both Rusty Blackbird and Common Grackle were low in numbers, at about a quarter of their average, while Brown-headed Cowbird was in average numbers. Of these three species, rusties and Common Grackles were widely scattered, while most cowbirds were in the Mississippi Valley.

There were a lot of finches in Iowa this winter, but most of them were House Finches, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches. An amazing 2,024 House Finches were counted, five times the total for Purple Finch. It is mindboggling to think that the first ever CBC record in Iowa was of two birds as recently as 1985-86. They are in all parts of the state and were missed on only four counts. Purple Finches were widely distributed except for the Northern Third, where only two were found, those at Westfield. For the third year in a row, Red Crossbills were found, this year 17 birds, at widely scattered locations in the Missouri and Mississippi valleys and Southern Third. Best count was seven at Rathbun. Pine Siskins were in average numbers at 1,016, scattered everywhere, and American Goldfinches were a little above average in numbers.

Finally, hidden at the end of the list, an interesting development with Eurasian Tree Sparrow. A 10-year high of 20 was reached, although the count has ranged between 12 and 20 the last four years, with only singles recorded earlier, in 1985-86 and 1986-87. This year the sparrows were found on two counts, 17 birds at Burlington and three at Keokuk. While not in the class of House Finch, this species seems established in Iowa and is slowly increasing.

## UNCOMMON SPECIES

First, a correction. Pete Petersen pointed out my error in last year's summary relating to Smith's Longspur. In 1990 this species was seen near Almont on the Iowa side of the Clinton circle (not in Illinois, as I had stated), for a first Iowa CBC record. In 1991 another was found, on the Illinois side of the same circle. The Iowa record has not been examined by the Records Committee, but was a breeding-plumaged male.

As mentioned above, three species new to the all-time list were found. Surf Scoter was at Davenport (Table 3), where an Iceland Gull was found also. The gull was the first to be documented for an Iowa CBC, and was a first-year bird seen by several observers, including Brian Blevins and Kelly McKay. The Surf Scoter was an immature seen by LeRoy Sowl and others at the I-280 bridge in Davenport. The third new species was Pine Warbler, two of which (an adult and an immature) spent some time near Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City, seen by many observers, including Tom Kent and Jim Fuller.

Next best was a Blue-winged Teal, only the second documented CBC record, also at Davenport. While there are several previous CBC records, none were documented until recently. A Great-tailed Grackle seen at Glenwood was a third CBC record, and a fourth-record Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at a Marshalltown feeder. Other good records were American White Pelican at Red Rock Lake, Thayer's Gull at Davenport, Burlington, and Red Rock Lake, the lone CBC Pine Grosbeak at Marshalltown also, Townsend's Solitaires at Mason City and Decorah, and a Chipping Sparrow (gray rump seen) at Glenwood. These species have all been seen fewer than 10 times on Iowa CBCs.

There were also a few bad misses. Worst was Common Redpoll, seen 9 of the last 10 years, but close were Golden Eagle (8 of 10), Brewer's Blackbird (7 of 10), Prairie Falcon and Varied Thrush (6 of 10), and Tundra Swan (5 of 10).

## OTHER COMMENTS

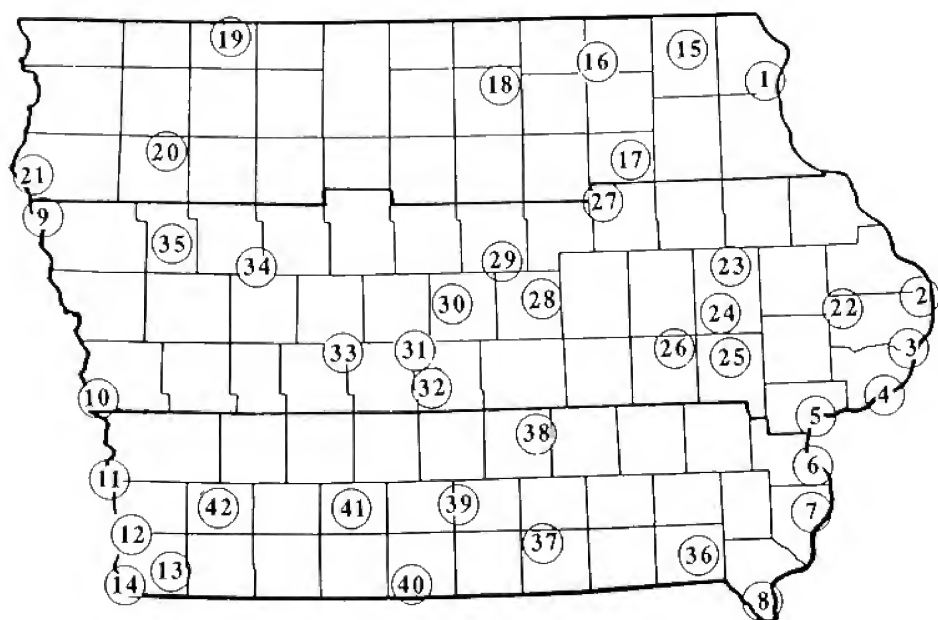
This was a bad year for deleted species. Several birds were reported without documentation and deleted, including Horned Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, Great Black-backed Gull, Western Meadowlark (retained as meadowlark sp.) and Brewer's Blackbird. Poor documentation resulted in elimination of the following: Black Scoter, Osprey (at two counts), Broad-winged Hawk, Iceland Gull (at one count; another bird was well-described at Davenport), Black-legged Kittiwake, and Brewer's Blackbird (at an additional location to the above deletion). Needless

**Table 3.** Species found on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 1992-93.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count where seen (number of individuals)</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	Shenandoah (1), Cedar Rapids (1), Rathbun (1)
American White Pelican	Red Rock Res. (1)
Ross's Goose	Jamaica (1)
Blue-winged Teal	Davenport (1)
Oldsquaw	Keokuk (2)
Surf Scoter	Davenport (1)
Turkey Vulture	Davenport (1)
Peregrine Falcon	Davenport (1)
Ruffed Grouse	Yellow River Forest (2), Decorah (1)
Thayer's Gull	Davenport (2), Burlington (1), Red Rock Res. (2)
Iceland Gull	Davenport (1)
Glaucous Gull	Clinton (2), Red Rock Res. (2)
Snowy Owl	Shenandoah (1), Bremer Co. (1), Saylorville Res. (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Saylorville Res. (1), Ida County (1)
Townsend's Solitaire	Decorah (1), Mason City (1)
Hermit Thrush	Princeton (1), Muscatine (1), North Linn (1)
Gray Catbird	Shenandoah (1), Cherokee (1), North Linn (1)
Pine Warbler	Iowa City (2)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Marshalltown (1)
Chipping Sparrow	Glenwood (1)
Great-tailed Grackle	Glenwood (1)
Pine Grosbeak	Marshalltown (1)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Burlington (17), Keokuk (3)

to say, this is a sad state of affairs, and a little care by compilers could have made this CBC a great one in terms of species recorded. A consistent problem is second-hand documentations; these are difficult to judge and compilers should ask observers to document species first-hand on count day. For my part, I will redo the reporting form so that the species which need documentation are clearly marked. Several of these documentations which I did not accept have been sent on to the Records Committee, which might disagree with me, in which case corrections will be noted in next year's summary.

*Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653*



*Figure 1. Locations of Christmas Bird Counts in Iowa, 1992-93. Number in circle corresponds to count numbers in Tables 1 and 2.*

# FIELD REPORTS--WINTER 1992-93

W. ROSS SILCOCK

## WEATHER

After the last several mild winters, we have forgotten what a normal Iowa winter is like. This year reminded us. There was lots of moisture, mainly snow, with generally normal to slightly above normal temperatures until the latter part of February, when very cold weather set in. This allowed snow to accumulate, leaving an extensive cover by the end of the period. Meanwhile, the major reservoirs froze up around the end of December, and by the end of the period the only significant open water was along the Mississippi River.



## AVIAN PHENOMENA

This type of winter, with frozen reservoirs and much snow cover, reduces feeding opportunities for waterfowl and raptors. Both groups were less in evidence than in past winters. An exception was Canada Goose, which continues to winter in increasing numbers in Iowa. On the other hand, the relatively mild temperatures in early winter allowed some species to linger in greater numbers than we have seen in recent winters; notable examples were Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. It has been several years since a significant incursion of "winter finches" has occurred; this winter we had to be satisfied with good numbers of Pine Siskins, but little else. For the first time in the last 10 years, no Common Redpolls were found. Other species of interest are Carolina Wren, which continues to increase, as does Eurasian Tree Sparrow in its stronghold in the extreme southeast. Finally, the cold surge of the latter two-thirds of February stopped the late February return of waterfowl and blackbirds we have seen in the last few years.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

Perhaps the rarest birds this winter were species that are expected at other times of the year but notable rarities in winter. Best among this group were the two Pine Warblers at Iowa City. Could the adult of this pair be the same bird that Gladys Black hosted last winter? Close seconds in rarity were the Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Marshalltown and a Tree Swallow in early December. Also in this category, but less spectacular were a Blue-winged Teal at Davenport and a Chipping Sparrow near Glenwood. Other birds seen that are rare in Iowa at any season were a Surf Scoter at Davenport, several Iceland Gulls, including one at Iowa City and another or the same bird at Rathbun Reservoir, and both a Great Black-backed Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Quad Cities.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented; m.ob. = many observers; CBC = Christmas Bird Count

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The only 1 reported after CBCs was at Cedar L., Cedar Rapids, all winter (DLD).

**Horned Grebe:** Latest was at Rathbun Res. on 6 Dec (RLC), although another was at Red Rock Res. until 3 Dec (THK).

**American White Pelican:** 1 was at Red Rock Res. until 3 Jan (AMJ, PA, RA).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Only 1, an imm. (JLF) at Cedar L. (DLD), wintered. The last at Saylorville Res. was seen 20 Dec (BE), while an ad. and an imm. were at Davenport as late as 26 Dec (PCP).

**Great Blue Heron:** Midwinter records were in Warren Co. 15 Jan (JSi) and Boone Co. 14 Jan (SRL); 1 at Saylorville Res. 13 Feb might have been returning (BE), although early returnees were not the rule for any species this year. Nevertheless 1 at Alice's Spaghettiland in Dallas Co. (PA, RA) might have been of Italian descent as well as an early returnee.

**Trumpeter Swan:** A pair showed up at Cedar Rapids a few days prior to Dec 28 (JOD) and wintered there (JLF). Neck collars (white 44KT, yellow 79KU) indicated that they were from the Crex Meadows, WI flock, which consists of about 100 birds, some of which have nested (Cedar Rapids Gazette).

**Swan sp.:** An imm. unidentified to species was described from Cone Marsh 18 Dec (THK). An uncorroborated and undocumented report was of 20 or 21 imm. Trumpeter Swans, all neck-banded, near the I-80 bridge in the Quad Cities 26 Dec. This would be an incredible record for any swan species in Iowa. A single imm. swan without a neck band was reported as a Trumpeter at Bettendorf 1 Jan but no details were provided.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 1 or 2 were reportedly wintering with the "resident" Canada Goose flock at Ida Grove (PE). No other reports were received after CBCs.

**Snow Goose:** No wintering concentrations were reported, although 1 was at Terra L. (aka IPTV pond or Crown Point pond) in Johnston throughout; it had "something around its neck" (BE). Latest were 38 at Bays Branch 22 Dec (SJD).

**Ross's Goose:** The only report was 1 at Bays Branch through 22 Dec (RLC).

**Canada Goose:** Large numbers occur in December throughout Iowa, the high count the 10,000+ at Bays Branch 22 Dec (SJD). Wintering flocks included 1,000 at Terra L. (BE), and 500 at Cedar L. (DLD).

**Wood Duck:** Up to 4 wintered on Cedar L. (DLD), an unusual occurrence anywhere but there. Latest in fall was a male 28 Dec at Davenport (JLF).

**Green-winged Teal:** Somewhat surprisingly, none were reported wintering, but a female was at Cedar L. as late as 1 Jan (THK, DLD).

**American Black Duck:** Up to 6 were wintering at Terra L. in Johnston (DTh, BE). Other midwinter reports were from Cedar L. on 1 Feb (DLD), and 2 were at Bays Branch 9 Jan (PA, RA).

**Mallard:** Largest reported wintering group was a rather puny 700 at Cedar L. (DLD). Northerly winterers were 200 at Rock Valley (JV), a regular occurrence.

**Northern Pintail:** None were reported wintering; latest was a pair at Bettendorf 1 Jan (PCP).

**Northern Shoveler:** This species is very rare in midwinter, but Terra L. "has something shovelers like" (BE), and 6 imm. males were there until 20 Feb, when 2 departed (BE, DTh). No others were reported after CBCs.

**Gadwall:** Also unusual in midwinter, up to 3 were at Terra L. throughout (BE, PA, RA). No others were reported after CBCs.

**American Wigeon:** Another unusual species in midwinter, a first-year male wintered at Terra L. (BE), while a female was at Bettendorf 26-28 Jan (PCP), and 1 was at Bays Branch 31 Jan (PA, RA).

**Canvasback:** Possibly wintering, and if so rather unusual, was 1 at Ottumwa 7 Feb (RLC). The last fall birds were 185 at Montrose 12 Dec (SJD), but see CBCs.

**Redhead:** Another unusual species in midwinter, 1 arrived at Terra L. 30 Jan and remained there throughout (BE); this is an interesting arrival date for a wintering bird. Another was at Bays Branch 31 Jan (PA, RA). Latest reported in fall were on CBCs, and earliest in spring was a male at Cedar L. 21 Feb (JLF).

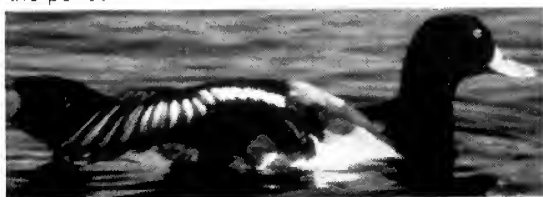
**Ring-necked Duck:** Another rare midwinter species, 2 males appeared at Terra L. 30 Jan and remained (BE, PA, RA). Additional midwinter records were 18 Jan in Scott Co. (DRP) and 2 at Bays Branch 31 Jan (PA, RA). A good count for as late as 13 Dec was the 62 at

Montrose (SJD), and 2 males appeared 20 Feb at Cedar Rapids (JLF), presumably spring migrants.

**Greater Scaup:** The only winter report was of up to 3 males at Terra L. from 30 Jan on (EE, see photo PA, RA, DTh). Latest in fall were a male at Big Creek S.P. 25 Dec (SJD) and a female at Red Rock Res. 24 Dec (AMJ).

**Lesser Scaup:** Latest were up to 19 birds in the period 8-21 Dec at Big Creek S.P. (SJD). None were reported after CBCs until the appearance of 1 on Cedar L. 21 Feb (JLF), 1 of few species returning this year during the period.

**Oldsquaw:** A female was at Red Rock Res. 24 Dec through 30 Jan (AMJ, MPr). The only other report was of a female at Montrose 12 Dec (SJD), presumably 1 of 2 birds reported on the Keokuk CBC.



*Greater Scaup, Terra Lake, Johnston, Iowa. Photo by Reid Allen.*

**Surf Scoter:** 2 were reported, an imm. at the Davenport CBC 20 Dec and a female or imm. at Montrose 13 Dec (SJD).

**Common Goldeneye:** No large wintering concentrations were reported; best count was 750 at Montrose 12-13 Dec (SJD). Up to 65 wintered on Cedar L. (JOD, DLD), 300 were in Scott Co. 18 Jan (RPI), and 3 were on Terra L. 4-30 Jan (BE).

**Bufflehead:** No midwinter reports were received, the norm. Latest was a female on the Iowa City CBC which lingered until 24 Dec on the Coralville sewage pond (THK). Best count was 27 at Montrose 13 Dec (SJD).

**Hooded Merganser:** As is usual, a few wintered or occurred in midwinter at scattered localities. Up to 7 wintered on Cedar L. (DLD, THK), while 4 were at Red Rock Res. 6 Jan (JLF) and a female was at Bettendorf 26-28 Jan (PCP). Best count was 17 at Montrose on 13 Dec (SJD).

**Common Merganser:** Due to reservoir freezeup, the best midwinter counts were on the Mississippi R., where up to 1,200 were in the Princeton area 18 Jan (RPI, THK) and 415 were on Pool 19 on 11 Jan (RIC). There were 800 as late as 1 Jan on Red Rock Res. (AMJ), but peak counts occurred in early December, when 10,000+ were there 13 Dec (SJD), and 5,500 were at Saylorville Res. 5 Dec (BE). Unusual so late so far north were 3 pairs on Clear L. 15 Dec (CuN).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** None were reported after CBCs, expected for this cold-sensitive species.

**Ruddy Duck:** As with Red-breasted Merganser, not reported after CBCs; also not expected in midwinter.

**Bald Eagle:** River valley counts yielded 572 birds, including 210 imms., between Fairport and Lock 13 on the Mississippi (PCP), and 350 wintering on the Des Moines R. in Marion and Mahaska counties (AMJ). Dick Bierman was prompted to add to the report of an imm. near Algona in July 1992 (*I.B.L.* 62:106) that he had seen an ad. flying north over Humboldt 21 Jun; these reports together suggest nesting along the East Fork of the Des Moines R.

**Northern Harrier:** An unusual northerly midwinter record was from Ida Co. 6 Jan (PE). Other reports were from southern Iowa, as expected.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1 wintered at a feeder in Fairfield (DCP). Few reports.

**Cooper's Hawk:** More reports than usual were received, confirming CBC data indicating higher numbers in December. January reports were statewide.

**Northern Goshawk:** After the good numbers reported on CBCs, a few wintering individuals were detected; an adult was at the Cedar Rapids Nursery (JOD, JLF, JES), another adult was in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt (\*CuN, \*RGo), and an imm. was in Grammer Grove S.P. (MPr). An additional midwinter record was an adult near Maffitt Res. 17 Jan (PA, RA). Possibly returning birds were found in late February; an ad. was in Johnson Co. 21 and 26 Feb (\*JES, JLF), and an ad. with a rabbit was seen in Warren Co. 20 Feb (AMJ).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** An ad. male near Moravia in Appanoose Co. 7 Feb was described as a "first county sighting" (RLC, TNJ). There were no other reports after CBCs.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** This species was considered common in Sioux Co., with 2-3 per 10 mi. (JV), and a good count of 26 was made around Fairfield 1 Jan (DCP). 2 "Harlan's" morphs were reported, 1 near Des Moines 29 Jan (AMJ) and another in Madison Co. 31 Jan (AMJ). No descriptions of the plumages were provided, however.



- Rough-legged Hawk:** Observers from NC Iowa (CuN), NW Iowa (JV) and SC Iowa (RLC) agreed that numbers were down, although CBC data indicated average numbers occurred statewide.
- Golden Eagle:** An ad. was in the usual wintering range in Allamakee Co. 5 Feb (JLF), but recent years have shown that imms. may occur anywhere in Iowa, generally along major river valleys. Fitting this pattern was a "subadult" near Algona for about 5 days through 17 Dec (MCK); another, an imm., near Coralville Res. 2 Feb (THK); and a third imm. along the Turkey R. in Delaware Co. 25 Feb (Jeff Dankert fide DLD).
- American Kestrel:** These birds were common as far north as Sioux Co., where 1-2 were counted per 10 mi. (JV).
- Merlin:** After CBCs, six additional reports were received. Easternmost reports were from Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, 26 Feb (BE), Algona on 7 Feb (MCK), and Madison Co. 22 Jan (see photo, PA, RA). This species occurs regularly in winter in the western half of Iowa.
- Peregrine Falcon:** 1 apparently wintering near the Masonic Temple in Davenport and counted on the CBC, may have been the bird seen near Credit I. 7 Jan (PCP). Rather surprising was 1 in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt 18 Jan (details, AMJ).
- Prairie Falcon:** Although none were found on CBCs, reports of 6 birds were received for the period, about normal for recent years. Easternmost reports were from Cerro Gordo Co. 5-6 Jan (\*JLW, CJF) and Marshall Co. 7 Dec (\*MPR). None were reported s. of I-80.
- Large falcon sp.:** Intriguing was a report of a "large, pale" falcon briefly seen near the Sioux City stockyards 30 Dec; its axillars could not be seen (THK).
- Gray Partridge:** Southeasternmost report was from Mitchellville, where 6 were seen 17 Jan (PA, RA). Other observations of note were of 4 near Waterloo 25 Dec (JOD), possibly the same as those seen at Raymond, Black Hawk Co., on 26 Dec (JES), and also a sighting near Cedar Rapids 27 Feb (JES).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Numbers were thought to be low in the Cherokee area (DBi), although another observer in C Iowa considered flocks of 50+ to be "small groups" (SRL).
- Ruffed Grouse:** 1 flushed near Lucas 4-5 Dec (Al Davis fide DTh) presumably was a representative of the introduced, but not yet established, population in the area.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** An interesting record was of a female caught by a dog 11 Dec near Larchwood (Marty Eby fide JJD). The remains were preserved and are now at ISU; "it probably was a wild bird that drifted into Iowa" (JJD). It is most likely that this bird came from South Dakota, where in recent years wintering birds have occurred in the southeast (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, *The Birds of South Dakota*, 1992). There currently are no Minnesota populations anywhere near Iowa (Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota*, 1987).
- Wild Turkey:** Of interest was a group of 15 near Fairfield which flew into trees when a Red-tailed Hawk flew over (DCP).
- American Coot:** A rare occurrence for this species, up to 3 wintered on Cedar L. (DLD, THK), but 1 with the wintering Mallards at Rock Valley was not seen after 10 Jan (JV). 1 seen on the Iowa City CBC remained until 24 Dec at the Coralville sewage pond (THK), and the latest at Red Rock Res. was also seen 24 Dec (SJD).
- Killdeer:** None were reported after CBCs.
- Common Snipe:** Apart from CBCs, the last report was of 1 at Slater 22 Dec (SJD).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** None were found on CBCs, and so the latest was at Rathbun Res. 3 Dec (THK), a rather wimpy late date for this species.
- Ring-billed Gull:** This species departed Saylorville Res. with freezeup 31 Dec (BE), but there were still 6 at Red Rock Res. 1 Jan (AMJ). Highest count was only 2,100 at Red Rock Res. 13 Dec (SJD).
- Herring Gull:** This species also left Saylorville Res. 31 Dec (BE) but greater numbers lingered at Red Rock Res., where 150 were seen 1 Jan (AMJ). Unusual were "inland" concentrations in midwinter; up to 200 were at Iowa City 16-21 Jan (RPi, JES), and 173 were in Linn Co. 26 Dec (DLD), where Herrings were seen 26 Dec through 1 Feb (DLD). Largest count was a low 1,000 at Red Rock Res. 13 Dec (SJD).
- Thayer's Gull:** 6 birds were reported this winter, 5 on CBCs, including 2 imms. at Davenport, 2 imms at Red Rock Res., and 1 imm. at Burlington. At least 1 imm. remained at Lock 15 in Davenport through 10 Feb (PCP), and 1 was at Lock 14 there on 31 Jan (PCP). Latest



*Merlin, Madison County,  
22 Jan. 1993.*

*Photo by Reid Allen.*



report from Red Rock Res. was an imm. 24 Dec (SJD). An additional report was of another imm. at Iowa City 15-24 Jan (\*THK, JES). This species is now regular in Iowa in early winter.

**Iceland Gull:** Following last year's unprecedented influx of this hitherto accidental species, we had a repeat performance. Probably 5 were seen last year, and this year it seems that 5 were reported. An imm. was reported on the Davenport CBC on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, probably the same bird that was reported in the Davenport area through 7 Feb (\*JLF, \*JES). An ad. was at Lock 14 in Davenport 31 Jan (JLF), and a second-year bird identified as a "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull was at Lock 15 on 7 Feb (\*JLF). To complicate matters, a "possible intergrade" between Kumlien's race of Iceland Gull and Thayer's Gull was identified at Davenport 14 Feb (\*AMJ). These two reports probably are of the same bird. Most unexpectedly, an imm. appeared at Iowa City 16 Jan (\*JLF) and remained until 30 Jan (JLF, \*THK, photo). One observer (\*RPI) detected pale-gray tones on the mantle and suggested this might have been a second-year bird. Finally, and also at an unexpected location, a "tan" imm. was at Red Rock Res. 2 Jan (\*RLC). With Thayer's Gull now at least casual in Iowa and appearing each of the last 7 years on CBCs and now 2 years of Iceland Gull invasions, it appears this species complex is undergoing some range changes, or possibly we are seeing the results of interbreeding on the breeding grounds. Future data will perhaps clarify what is happening.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Three reports were received, only one with details, although all were said to be adults. One was at Red Rock Res. 13 Dec (details SJD), another was at Lock 15 on 22 Dec (PCP), and a third was reported at the Quad Cities 31 Dec (JOD), presumably the same as the preceding. This species is still only casual in Iowa.

**Glaucous Gull:** Several reports were received for this regular species. 2 first-year birds were at Red Rock Res. 10 Dec to 3 Jan (JLF, THK, SJD, AMJ), including the CBC. 2 were reported on the Clinton CBC but ages were not mentioned. An adult was at Bettendorf 14 Feb (details RMJ) and a first-year bird was at Lock 14 on 31 Jan (JLF). Most unusual was a report from Cedar L. 26 Dec (\*DLD) of a first-year bird, although some aspects of the description were a little puzzling, such as the wings being longer than the tail, usually a good mark for Iceland Gull.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** The only report of this casual species was of a first-year bird at Bettendorf 28 Feb (\*JLF).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** A favored location is below the dam at Red Rock Res., and this year was no exception: a first-winter bird was there 9 Dec (details SJD). The only other report was of a purported adult, but details were not convincing.

**Rock Dove:** Yes.

**Mourning Dove:** Rather far north for wintering birds, 8-10 were in a Mason City yard for the period (CJF, JLV). A good late count was 500+ in Lee Co. 13 Dec (SJD).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 2 offered themselves as stakeouts: 1 was in Curt Nelson's barn in Cerro Gordo Co. all winter (CuN), and another wintered in a backyard Wood Duck box in Mason City (RGo). Maybe the northern cold befuddled these two.

**Great Horned Owl:** 1 of the arctic race appeared again near Algona at the end of November; it seemed "tamer than the locals" (MCK).

**Snowy Owl:** What looked like it might be a good year turned out to be so-so, but better than most recent years. 3 were found on CBCs, only 1 of which was reported more than once: 1 at Denver, Bremer Co., was seen 26 Dec (JES) and 27 Dec (THK). Other reports were from Humboldt Co. 20 Feb (Tina Van Dyke fide JV), 25 Jan near Algona (Mark Lenz fide MCK), 23 Dec in Guthrie Co. (SJD), and an intriguing report of "several" in Lyon and Sioux counties during January (Marty Eby fide SJD).

**Barred Owl:** Perhaps at the northwest limit in Iowa (any regular spots in NW Iowa?) was 1 wintering in pines in Mason City (RGo).

**Long-eared Owl:** High count was of 3 both at Big Creek S.P. (AMJ, BE) and Otter Creek P., Tama Co. (MPR).

**Short-eared Owl:** Following a 10-year low of only 6 on the CBCs, only four reports were received. 1 was in Warren Co. 11 Dec (AMJ), 1 was near Holstein 4 Jan (PE), a rather unusual midwinter location, another was at Rathbun Res. 7 and 14 Feb (TNJ), and lastly 1 was at Big Creek S.P. 3 and 7 Feb (AMJ). This is a lackluster winter for this species, possibly related to heavy snow cover over much of the state.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** As usual, most reports were from C and EC Iowa; high count was 5 in Amana Woods (JLF). An unusual location was Moorehead Park in Ida Co., where 2 wintered, at least until 1 Feb, when 1 was found dead possibly killed by jays or crows (PE).

- Belted Kingfisher:** Most northerly reports were from Boone Co. (SRL) and Linn Co. (JOD, DLD).
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** CBC data revealed that most had vacated the Missouri Valley by December. Thus unexpected were reports of 4 wintering at a suet feeder in Cherokee (DBI) and an imm. in Ida Co. 9 Feb which "probably wintered" (PE). In contrast, "more than usual" were wintering in Winneshiek Co. (DC).
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Reported as doing well in NW Iowa (JV).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** More midwinter reports were received than usual. Most northerly were an imm. at a feeder in Algona during early Feb (Sharon Arndorfer fide MCK) and another at suet in Eldora 27 Jan and 16 Feb (MPR). Another wintered at Ames (HZa). Other midwinter reports were from Iowa City on 10 and 21 Jan (RPI), Norwalk on 16 Jan (AMJ), and Cedar Rapids on 3 Jan (JLF).
- Northern Flicker:** Northerly winterers were 2 in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt (CuN) and in Mason City yards (RGo, CJF). None were seen in Sioux Co. until 29 Jan (JV), a difficult observation to explain, unless birds arrived from further north.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** No reports other than CBCs.
- Horned Lark:** Good numbers were noted by most observers this winter. Large numbers were seen between Dallas and Crawford counties 26 Feb, when 2,800 were counted, many in flocks of 200-300 (RIC). A buildup was noted in Cerro Gordo Co. in late Feb (JLW), presumably migrants, peaking 28 Feb at 550 (JLW). In Boone Co. 50 were seen feeding on corn 25 Feb (SRL).
- Tree Swallow:** A first for a winter report, Iowa's all-time latest was near Rathbun Res. 5 Dec (TNJ), continuing the string of late fall dates (*I.B.L.* 63:20).
- American Crow:** Large roosts reported included 30,000 at Keokuk throughout the period (RIC), and 6,300+ at Ames in late Feb (JJD).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** This was an uneventful "baseline" year for this species, with scattered wintering birds reported. In Sioux Co. a few were present in early December, but were gone by 25 Dec (JV). Best count was only 4 at Central City 2 Jan (JOD).
- Brown Creeper:** Numbers were unremarkable.
- Carolina Wren:** As shown by CBC data, this species continues to increase in numbers. Wintering birds were found as far north as the Rita Efta feeder in Auburn, where 1 was banded and photographed 16-17 Jan (DPo). Another wintered at the Edwards feeder in Ames (HZa).
- Winter Wren:** Wintering birds are rare, and usually confined to the extreme south. Thus unexpected northerly records were of 1 below Saylorville Dam 3 Feb (JSi) and another at Big Creek S.P. 6 Jan (PA, RA). CBC data indicated higher December numbers than usual.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** After very high numbers on CBCs, several unusual midwinter reports were received, including at least 1 lingering as late as 24 Jan in pine plantings in Ida Co. (PE). Another was at a Carroll feeder throughout (EBW), and in Des Moines 12 were still present 27 Dec (RIC) and 3 as late as 31 Jan (PA, RA), with 2 seen 16 Jan and 13 Feb (EE).
- Eastern Bluebird:** One observer noted that there were "reasonable numbers several places all winter" (AMJ). Most northerly were 12 at Central City 2 Jan (DLD).
- Mountain Bluebird:** A female was found at Big Creek S.P. 4 Jan (\*GGB) for 1 of fewer than 10 Iowa records for this western species.
- Townsend's Solitaire:** This year's excitement for this regular but rare species was in Cerro Gordo Co., where 2 wintered near Rock Falls in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt (photo JOD, \*RPI, m.ob.). They were first seen 28 Dec by Pete Wickham and were still present 28 Feb (CuN).
- Thrush sp.:** A thrush without rufous on its back was seen briefly in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt 3 Jan (CuN). The observer conceded that it was probably a Hermit Thrush, but it looked like a Swainson's Thrush. Rufous coloration can be difficult to see in odd lighting conditions.
- American Robin:** Good numbers were reported statewide after CBCs; this was attributed to a "heavy fruit crop" by one observer (BE). Good northerly counts were 30+ in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt (RGo, CuN), and 18 at Nevada on 24 Jan (HZa). Returning migrants were 20 noted in Iowa City 11 Feb (RHo) and 200+ in Cedar Rapids 24 Feb (photo, fide HZa).
- Varied Thrush:** None were found this winter, the first time for several years.
- Hwa-Mei:** Yes, this is a bird, but not a normal part of Iowa's winter avifauna. Two, obviously escaped from captivity, were in an Ottumwa yard during February (photos NHo). The nearest wild population is in Hawaii. Parrots, anyone?
- Brown Thrasher:** More than usual were found on CBCs, but only 1 was reported to survive the winter; 1 at Iowa City 27 Feb had been present since January (David Funk fide THK).

- Bohemian Waxwing:** The only report was of 2 in a Cherokee yard on 10 Feb; they were identified by size and their rufous under-tail coverts (DBi). Cherokee seems to be the likeliest place for this species to occur in non-invasion years.
- Cedar Waxwing:** Like American Robin, this species was numerous due to a good fruit crop (BE). Best count was the 200+ wintering in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt (RGo, CuN). No high counts were received from s. of Des Moines in midwinter, however.
- Northern Shrike:** Numbers were about average, although most were in the north. Furthest south were singles at Union Grove S.P. 3 Feb (MPr) and another which spent the winter unsuccessfully raiding a feeder at Rippey (SRL). None were at the usual Big Creek S.P. locations (BE).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Rather far north in midwinter was 1 at Hendrickson Marsh 23 Jan (HZa). CBCs had this species further north in December than in most recent years.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** CBCs had an amazing 44 birds, and as might be expected, some very unusual winter records were made this year. Rather incredibly, up to 4 wintered in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt (CuN, JLF), overshadowing up to 6 which were at Big Creek S.P. all winter (BE, AMJ, DTh). As many as 15 wintered in Appanoose Co. near Rathbun Res. also (TNJ, RLC). This species is rare in winter, and is usually only found in the extreme south when present.
- Pine Warbler:** Possibly the best record this winter was of 2 birds, an adult and an imm., found 20 Dec during the Iowa City CBC at Hancher Auditorium feeding on the ground amongst some conifers (photos THK, \*JES, \*THK, \*JLF, m.ob.). Both were still present 6 Jan (JLF) but apparently no later. This record follows last winter's unprecedented bird at Pleasantville (perhaps this year's adult?).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** A report was received from southern Iowa of 1 identified as this species seen 17 Feb. Rather sketchy but suggestive details were provided which will be passed on to the Records Committee as this would be a first winter record. Although there are no winter records for Missouri or Kansas, 1 was at Duluth, Minnesota, 15 Feb to 21 Mar 1975 (Janssen).
- Northern Cardinal:** This species occurs along river valleys in NW Iowa but is still rare in towns there (JV).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Yet another amazing winter record was a winter-plumaged male coming to a feeder in Marshalltown since Thanksgiving and at least through 28 Jan (John King fide MPr). This bird was recorded on the CBC and was described as having "a very good red V on the breast". It appears to be about the sixth winter record.
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** Absent in winter except perhaps in the SE quarter of Iowa, an eastern race (unspotted) bird was at a Johnston feeder throughout the period (DTh). Observers should record whether winter towhees are "spotted" or not; it would be of interest to delineate their winter ranges in Iowa.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Described as "incredible" were 400-1,000 seen in Johnson and Louisa counties 28 Feb (RHo). CBC data showed low numbers this December however.
- Song Sparrow:** Wintering birds were detected as far north as Cerro Gordo Co. (CuN, CJF, JLV). Numbers were generally good this winter.
- Swamp Sparrow:** Wintering birds were found rather far north, including 2 in Ida Co. 5 Jan (PE) and 1 at Big Marsh, Butler Co. 30 Jan (JSi). An imm. spent the winter with White-throated Sparrows in a Davenport yard (PCP).
- White-throated Sparrow:** This species remained to winter in unusual numbers after the good total recorded on CBCs. As many as 10 wintered in Davenport (PCP), and 8 were at 1 Iowa City feeder (JLF) and 3 or 4 at another (RPI). Furthest northwesterly wintering birds were 2 at Grammer Grove W.A., Marshall Co., seen 3 Jan and 3 Feb (MPr) and 2 at Wolf Creek R.A., Grundy Co., on 20 Feb (MPr).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Somewhat erratic in Iowa as a wintering bird, where it is at the northern edge of its winter range, only 25 were found on CBCs, a 10-year low. Reports of wintering birds came from most parts of the state except the northern third, however, including an imm. at Ida Grove 5 Jan (PE), and 2 imm. at Union Grove S.P. 3 Feb (MPr). A flock of 10 at Cone Marsh 28 Feb contained some singing birds (RHo).
- Harris's Sparrow:** Unusually far north (and east) in midwinter was 1 which appeared at the Lime Creek Nature Center feeder in Mason City 18-19 Jan (CJF, RGo, JLV). Other easterly records were an imm. 3 Feb at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr), and 3 at a Mystic feeder 28 Feb (TNJ).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** Two reports of "Oregon" type birds after CBCs included a male and possible female at a Cedar Rapids feeder all winter (DLD), and 2 wintering in Mason City (CJF).

- Lapland Longspur:** CBC numbers were low, possibly due to heavy snow cover over much of the state. An observation by Matt Kenne suggests that many wintered s. of Iowa: "many thousands" were heard flying over Algona after a snowfall in early December. Very few remained in Cerro Gordo Co. (CuN, JLW), and no large midwinter flocks were reported, the largest 100 on 30 Dec in Clay Co. (LAS). Large flocks were reported in late February in Johnson and Linn counties (JLF), probably returning migrants. 3 came to a feeder with Horned Larks at Rippey (SRL). Strange things were happening at Rippey this winter!
- Snow Bunting:** Few were reported on CBCs, but good numbers appeared in midwinter. Largest numbers were as expected in the north, including 700-900 in Dickinson Co. 18 Jan (DBi), 550 in Cerro Gordo Co. 17 Jan (JLW), and 600 near Burt, Kossuth Co. on 14 Jan (MCK). That weird feeder at Rippey (or is it Ripley?) had 10 Snow Buntings with the aforementioned Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks. None were reported s. of I-80.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Unusual in midwinter were a few birds wintering in Cerro Gordo Co., including females (CJF, JLW, RGo), and small flocks along the Big Sioux and Rock rivers, where they are usually absent in midwinter (JV). A female, possibly an early returning bird, was at Cone Marsh 28 Feb (RHo).
- Meadowlark sp.:** A few overwintered as far north as Cherokee Co. where 1-3 were seen throughout the period (DBi), Ida Co. where 2 were present in January (PE), and Story Co., where 9 were found near Hendrickson Marsh 23 Jan (HZa).
- Eastern Meadowlark:** None were identified this winter, including CBCs.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Amazing for so far north in midwinter was a male with a mixed flock of blackbirds at a cattle lot in Kossuth Co. 14 Jan (MCK). There are at least two winter records for Minnesota (Janssen).
- Rusty Blackbird:** Very unusual northerly midwinter records were a male in a Mason City yard 9-10 Feb (CJF), and 10 in the mixed blackbird flock seen 14 and 21 Jan in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Also unusual were 3 at Big Marsh, Butler Co. on 30 Jan (JSi). One on 27 Dec was rather late as far north as Rush L., Palo Alto Co. (THK).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** None were found on CBCs, and so the only reports this winter were of 4 birds in the noted mixed blackbird flock in Kossuth Co. 14 Jan (MCK), 3 at a Rock Falls feeder 9-10 Jan (\*CuN), both extremely unusual northerly winter records, and, at a more usual location, 8 birds in Indianola on 23 Jan (JSi).
- Common Grackle:** Overwintering is uncommon, and usually only singles or very small groups are found, mostly in S Iowa. Thus of interest were 5 at a feeder in Mason City throughout (RGo) and 3 in Kossuth Co. in the mixed blackbird flock 14 Jan (MCK). Noteworthy were up to 10, all males, wintering in Ames (JJD).
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Usually absent in winter, this species is rare as far north as Kossuth Co., where an amazing 30 were in the mixed blackbird flock 14 and 21 Jan (MCK). A comparable record in terms of rarity was a male and 5 females in Mason City 8-13 Jan (CJF).
- Northern Oriole:** Dennis Thompson reported an unusually yellow oriole at his feeder on two brief occasions; the possibility of Scott's Oriole was considered, but the bird was tentatively identified as an intergrade of "Bullock's" and "Baltimore" races (\*DTh).
- Pine Grosbeak:** The only bird found was on the Marshalltown CBC.
- Purple Finch:** Numbers were down this winter, probably because they were all in the Shell Rock R. Greenbelt, where up to 120 wintered (JSi, CuN). The only other midwinter report was from Grammer Grove W.A. 3 and 31 Jan (MPR).
- House Finch:** High count was 70 in a Fairfield yard 13 Feb (DCP). Record numbers were found on CBCs.
- Red Crossbill:** Only two reports were received after CBCs. 3 females and a male were at Logan Park Cemetery in Sioux City 31 Dec (THK), and 4 were picking up grit on the roadside on 6 Jan in Steamboat Rock (MPR).
- White-winged Crossbill:** None were found on CBCs and so the lone report for the winter was of 6 in Iowa City 29 Dec (THK).
- Common Redpoll:** Following the first CBC miss of this species in 10 years, only one report was received; "a few" were at Sioux Center feeders from mid January to 8 Feb (JV). Clearly, this was not a winter-finch year.
- Pine Siskin:** This was the only northern finch present in any numbers this winter, although it was hardly an invasion. Siskins occurred statewide in generally small flocks, with the best count 100 at the LeMars Cemetery on 5 Dec (THK).
- American Goldfinch:** No remarkable reports were received- although it was "very scarce" at feeders in Rippey (SRL), possibly due to the presence of those Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and Lapland Longspurs!

**Evening Grosbeak:** None were found this winter or on CBCs for the second straight year.

## CONTRIBUTORS

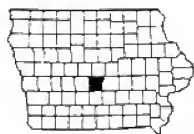
Carol A. Alexander (CAA), Fairfield; Pam Allen (PA), West Des Moines; Reid Allen (RA), West Des Moines; Dick Bierman (DBi), Cherokee; Tanya E. Bray (TEB), Bellevue, NE; Gordon J. Brand (GJB), Newton; G. Gordon Brown, Jr. (GGB), Ames; Dennis Carter (DC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Raleigh, NC; Daniel C. Dorrance (DCD), Davenport; James O. Durbin (JOD), Marion; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita A. Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Richard Hollis (RH), Iowa City; Nelson Hoskins (NH), Ottumwa; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Sharon R. Laub (SRL), Rippey; Curt Nelson (CuN), Mason City; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; D. Randall Pinkston (DRP), Iowa City; Don Poggensee (DPo), Ida Grove; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Mark Proescholdt (MP), Liscomb; James E. Scheib (JES), Iowa City; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Darrin Siefken (DSi), Tripoli; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Dennis Thompson (DTh), Johnston; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City; Eva B. Wiedemeyer (EBW), Carroll; Hank Zaletel (HZ), Colo.

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## COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

At 4:17 p.m. on 2 November 1989, I was birding Cherry Glen Recreation Area at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County, when I saw an adult Common Black-headed Gull with a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. The first thing that caught my eye was the dark underwing. The bird then landed on the water with several Bonaparte's Gulls and remained there for 15 minutes. I estimated that the bird was 25% larger than a Bonaparte's Gull. The mantle and upperwing were very light gray, noticeably paler than those of a Bonaparte's Gull. The head was white, except for a small black spot directly behind each eye. The bill was proportionately longer than the bill of a Bonaparte's Gull and was blood red, not black in color. The underparts and tail were also white. The tail was square at the tip, not forked or wedge-shaped. After resting on the water, all of the gulls flew southwest across the lake towards the dam, presumably to roost. This gave me a good opportunity to study the wing pattern in detail. The upperwing was mostly pale gray, except that the outermost two or three primaries were white, forming a distinct white wedge on the outer wing, similar to that of a Bonaparte's Gull. There was a thin black border to the outer primary. The axillars were white. The undersides of the primaries were black, gradually fading to white towards the inner secondaries. The undersides of the outer two or three primaries were white. Based on the largely white head, red bill, and wing pattern, I aged the bird as an adult in basic plumage.



The bird could not be relocated on 3 November, but was seen briefly on 4 November by several birders.

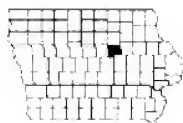
This is the first record of a Common Black-headed Gull in Iowa, and one of the few records from the Midwest. Among states adjacent to Iowa, the species has been reported from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, and Illinois. However, with the increased reports of this species along the Atlantic Coast, more records from interior states can be expected in the future.

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## DIET OF A NORTHERN HAWK OWL IN IOWA

DAVID J. CONRAD

During the winter of 1981-82 a Northern Hawk Owl was observed in Waterloo. This is the only documented and photographed hawk owl in the state. The bird was first observed 25 December 1981 and was last seen 25 February 1982. During this period 20 pellets were collected from



below the roosts of the owl. The pellets were recently dissected and crania of prey species were identified. Twenty-three meadow voles and two mice of the genus *Peromyscus* were identified from the remains.

Little has been written about the food habits of this species. In Minnesota, eight whole or partial pellets of a hawk owl were found in early spring 1979. Six meadow voles, one short-tailed shrew, and one Ruffed Grouse were identified from the remains (Axelrod 1980). Mikkola (1983) reported that microtines composed 95.7% of Northern Hawk Owl diets during summer in Northern Europe, 56.8% during the winter. The lower percentage in the winter was thought to be due to the snow cover making it difficult for the owls to locate microtines. During the period that the hawk owl was seen in Waterloo, the ground was snow covered (Bob Myers, pers. comm.). It is not surprising that the main diet of the hawk owl in Iowa was the meadow vole since both the owl and the vole are active primarily during the day (Eckert 1973), Schwartz and Schwartz 1981). I thank Tom Wagner for collecting the pellets, Dr. Nixon Wilson for preserving them, and Bob Flamm and his students from Walnut Ridge Baptist Academy for assisting with the pellet dissection.

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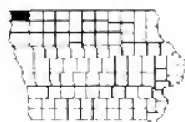
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# GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN IN LYON COUNTY

MARTY EBY

At approximately 9:30 a.m. on 11 December 1992, while hunting pheasants in section 12, Sioux Township, Lyon County, my dog captured a female Greater Prairie-Chicken. The bird was caught in a large brome field and died within a few minutes. In the hand, I immediately recognized the bird as a prairie-chicken, a bird I am familiar with from north-central Nebraska. The short, barred tail, feathered legs, and strongly barred underparts supported the identification. The remains of the bird were frozen and later transferred to the bird collection at Iowa State University.



Greater Prairie-Chickens are now accidental in Iowa. All recent records are from western Iowa and were found in winter. These birds probably were migrants from Nebraska or South Dakota and include one on 7 February 1979 in Harrison County (Schaufenbuel 1979) and one on 2 January 1984 in Osceola County (Spengler 1984). The Iowa Department of Natural Resources released prairie-chickens in Monona County in 1980 and 1982 and in Ringgold County in 1987-89. Birds from the first release were seen there for several years and then disappeared while those in Ringgold County have been seen several times in recent years.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Schaufenbuel, J. 1979. Greater Prairie Chicken in Harrison County. *Iowa Bird Life* 49:26-27.  
Spengler, R. 1984. Greater Prairie Chicken in Osceola County. *Iowa Bird Life* 54:21.

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## I.O.U. BUSINESS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*Lake Red Rock, Saturday, 7 November 1992*

HILDA A. SICKELS, SECRETARY

Present: Ann Barker (presiding), Bob Cecil, Hilda Sickels, Pam Allen, Eloise Armstrong, Diane Porter, Mark Proescholdt, Harold White. Others present: Tom Kent, Francis Moore, Hank Zaletel. The minutes for the 11 April 1992 Board meeting were approved as distributed and published in *Iowa Bird Life* (motion by Allen, seconded by Armstrong).  
The treasurer's report, including a balance sheet, statement of support, revenues and expenses, and membership information, was distributed and accepted.

### Committee Reports

Records: Kent reported that the committee is up to date with records and the 1991 annual report has been completed. To reduce photoduplication costs, two copies of photos are being circulated for review and then used for archival purposes. The budget request for 1993 will be slightly higher. The following nominations for new members to the committee were submitted to the board: 1), for a 6-year term beginning in 1992, to succeed himself, Francis Moore; and 2), for a 6-year term beginning in 1993, to succeed Mark Proescholdt, Ann Johnson. Both were approved. Recently, the

committee voted to recommend to the board the following change in item 3 under committee structure in its bylaws: [ ( ) = delete, **bold** = new]

3. Terms on the committee shall be 6 years with one member appointed to the committee each year. Terms shall begin after the first annual meeting of the Union in the year of appointment. (No member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.) **When a current member's term on the committee expires, whether a full or partial term, that member is not eligible for reappointment for at least one year.**

The reason for the change is to allow recommendation of new members by the entire committee, including the retiring member, without prejudice toward the incumbent. It was moved (Proescholdt, seconded by Allen) to change the bylaws as recommended by the committee. Motion carried.

Membership: Membership brochures were sent to 235 feeder survey participants this year with a rather poor response. It was suggested that brochures be mailed with all educational booklets. The budget request is reduced for 1993. The terms of Jim Sinclair and Ann Johnson expire in 1993.

Publications: The committee met in May, and recommends that the board consider selling clip art from the educational booklet. The artwork has not been copyrighted and belongs to I.O.U. Hank Zaletel volunteered to make a prototype for sale. It was moved (Porter, seconded by White) that Zaletel proceed. Motion carried. The committee recommended that John Fleckenstein be reappointed to a second term. This was approved (motion by Allen, seconded by Proescholdt). The budget request for *Iowa Bird Life* for 1993 is slightly higher, mostly because of increased costs.

Library-Historical: The I.O.U. would like to preserve the natural history book collection of former *Iowa Bird Life* editor Fred Pierce. His estate is not settled and there is no definite word on disposition of the journals. The Iowa State University Library has agreed to act as a repository for I.O.U. materials; the board recommends that if acquired the Pierce collection be stored at the Iowa State University or University of Iowa library.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Cecil reported that the committee is requesting \$2,000 from the I.O.U. to be used toward publication. The D.N.R. is contributing \$9,000. The committee would like the I.O.U. to publish and distribute the book so that cost could be kept more reasonable and profits would be available to I.O.U. and the D.N.R. Considerable discussion centered on whether this was feasible and whether costs could be reduced by considering other avenues for publication. It was moved (Allen, seconded White) that the board ask the committee to prepare a plan of action, exploring publication and distribution alternatives and including a specific budget. Motion carried.

Education: One thousand copies of the curriculum booklet have been printed and about 200 complimentary copies sent out. Printing cost was \$2,537, \$500 of which was contributed by the Iowa Conservation Education Council. I.C.E.C. has recommended that the price of the booklet be \$4, with the proceeds allotted 25% to I.C.E.C. and 75% to I.O.U. Pam Allen will design a form to use to record transactions, and will work with the I.C.E.C. treasurer. It was moved (Proescholdt, seconded by Allen) that we accept the I.C.E.C. price recommendation, and that postage and handling charge be \$2. Motion carried. The committee was commended for doing an excellent job. The original committee, having accomplished its purpose, will be dissolved, and another formed to oversee other activities relating to this publication. Members of the new committee are Rick Hollis, chair, Beth Brown, Diane Porter, and Hank Zaletel.

Spring Count: The committee has not formally met. It has recommended that the count be held on the Sunday between 6 and 12 May each year, and that it be done on a county basis. Rather than publishing complete results, they suggest a summary article including county totals, observations, and trends. Complete data would be available upon request. Pete Petersen has offered to compile the data. The board's discussion reflected its concerns about whether publishing partial results would be appropriate. The consensus was that the project needs more thought in all aspects and more communication among committee members with input from others. It was moved (Allen, seconded by White) that the count be approved on a trial basis for 1993, and that the committee be asked to meet more frequently and, after the count, to reassess all aspects of the proposal and make suggestions to the board this fall. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

Field trips: The committee met just before the board meeting and set the following 1993 schedule: 3 April-Kossuth County; 4 and 5 June-southwest Iowa; 7 August-Green Island; 18 September-Grammer Grove; and 20 November-Red Rock.

Nominating: The committee is making good progress.

Iowa Birdline: Birdline use continues to increase, and the service continues to improve beyond all original expectations. It was moved (Allen, seconded by Porter) that Jim Fuller be highly commended for the work he has done and for his diligent persistence in keeping Iowa birders informed. Motion carried unanimously.



### Old Business

Upcoming meetings: The spring 1993 meeting will be held at Keosauqua on 14-16 May. The membership committee will welcome newcomers. The location for the fall 1993 meeting is still uncertain. Possibilities are Spencer or Centerville. After discussion, it was moved (Allen, seconded by Armstrong) that Bob Cecil be given the authority to choose the location for the meeting. Motion carried.

In response to the board's request, the general membership has suggested that the board establish a policy of considering whether the mailing list should be sold on a case-by-case basis, and that any decision to sell the list be kept especially relevant to Iowa birders. After discussion, it was moved (Allen, seconded by White) that the sale of our mailing list be considered on a case-by-case basis. Motion carried. A request for the list has been received from the American Birding Association. It was moved (White, seconded by Cecil) that the list be released to the A.B.A. The motion carried on a split vote with two abstaining. It was then moved (Porter, seconded by Allen) that the membership be informed through the newsletter about the possible sale of the list to other birding organizations and asked to notify the treasurer if they do not want their name released. Motion carried.

A letter from Rick Hollis was read concerning the adoption of a code of ethics. The board felt it needed more time to review the two proposals. It was moved (Armstrong, seconded by Proescholdt) to table the proposal. Motion carried.

### New business

The 1993 budget was discussed. The proposal shows total expenses of \$11,102 and total income of \$13,102. It was moved (Allen, seconded by Porter) that the budget be accepted as proposed. Motion carried.

The possibility of establishing a President's Award was discussed. It was moved (Allen, seconded by Porter) that a special award designated "President's Award" be established to be given at the spring meeting to an individual who has given outstanding service to the I.O.U., and that Jim Fuller be the first recipient for his service on the birdline. Motion carried.

The next board meeting will be held 3 April 1993, after the field trip in Kossuth County. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

## TREASURERS REPORT--1992, PAM ALLEN, TREASURER BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1992

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in bank (Note 1)	11,296.47	
Cash in bank, (Note 2)	105.65	
Certif. of Deposit (Note 3)	21,550.00	
Certif. of Deposit (Note 4)	3,286.55	
Interest on CD (Note 5)	1,188.50	
Interest on CD (Note 6)	108.45	
Total Current Assets, 31 Dec. 1991		\$37,535.62

Assets as of 31 December 1991	34,353.14	
1992 addition	3,182.48	
Total liabilities, fund balance, and 1992 addition		\$37,535.62

### FUND BALANCE BREAKDOWN

Birdathon (Note 7)	1,512.05	
Book royalties	2,859.34	
Endowment Fund (Note 7)	4,387.12	
Project Fund (Note 7)	294.63	
Endowment Fund Total		9,053.14

Life Memberships	6,802.50
Birdline Fund	463.92
Breeding Bird Atlas	1,017.59
Meeting fund	1,624.77
Operating Fund	18,573.70

Total Fund Balance, 31 December 1992	\$37,535.62
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# SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES 1992

## SUPPORT (Contributions and gifts)

Breeding Bird Atlas	15.00
Endowment Fund	618.63
Iowa Bird Line	127.31
Project Fund	209.87
Unspecified contributions	889.00

Total contributions and gifts	1,859.81
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## REVENUES

### Membership/subscriptions

Regular member	5,322.00
First family member	1,478.00
Second family member	376.00
Third+ member	26.00
Life member	762.50
Institutional member	930.00

Total membership revenue	8,894.50
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### Sales

I.O.U. materials	554.50
Educational Booklets	92.00
Postage	2.00
Iowa Bird Life back issues	67.00

Total sales revenue	715.50
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Interest income	1,517.62
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Meeting income	433.64
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TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$13,421.07
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## EXPENSES

### Publications Committee

Iowa Bird Life	4,908.69
I.O.U. News	955.94

Total Publications Committee	5,864.63
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### Committee/officer expenses

Education Committee	2,805.16
Field Trip Committee	23.32
Iowa Bird Line	175.29
Materials Expense	360.61
Membership Committee	224.73
Records Committee	161.77
President	34.97
Treasurer	288.11
Spring 93 meeting deposit	300.00

Total other organization expenses	4,373.96	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$10,238.59
EXCESS SUPPORT AND REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		
\$3,182.48		

Note 1. Norwest Bank, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Note 2. First National Bank, Ames, IA (IBL Account)

Note 3. Twelve-month Certificate of Deposit, maturing 26 June 1993

Note 4. Three-month Certificate of Deposit, maturing 26 March 1993

Note 5. Interest earned on \$21,550 C.D. at 31 December 1992

Note 6. Interest earned on \$3,286.55 C.D. at 31 December 1992

Note 7. All Birdathon funds collected are allocated as follows: 75% to the Endowment Fund and 25% to the Project Fund; \$731.50 collected in 1992 and allocated accordingly.

## IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### 1991 AND 1992 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

#### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

	1991	1992
Regular Member	330	350
First Family Member	86	97
Second Family Member	87	99
Third+ Family Member	15	14
Free Member	10	10
Honorary Member	3	2
Institutional Member	54	55
Life Member (fully paid)	37	39
Life Member (partially paid)	5	4
Total membership	627	670

## LETTERS

*Editor's Note: The following letter was received by I.O.U. Treasurer Pam Allen, apparently in response to the article by Hank Zaletel on the origin of the American Goldfinch as Iowa's state bird (I.B.L. 62:68-69). In April, I talked with Mr. Rosene and learned that he and his father visited the Sherman home on 10 August 1928. The American Goldfinch became Iowa's official state bird by legislative action in 1932. The painting that he discusses is now in the collection of the State Historical Museum in Des Moines. A photograph of the painting is published below.*

From: Walter Rosene, Jr.

Thought you would be interested in the origin of how the Goldfinch became nominated for the Iowa bird. I went with my father, who was the first president of the I.O.U., to see Althea R. Sherman and her Chimney Swift tower. She graciously showed us the tower with the steps around the chimney with its many peep holes. Then she invited us in her house. She was an old maid and had an old sister living with her. We talked birds. Her sister was a very good artist and brought out a

painting of a Goldfinch perched on a thistle. My father was impressed and said "This should be the State bird."

He corresponded with Arthur Pallas, Mary Bailey, Mrs. Toni Wendleburg and others in the I.O.U. and if I remember correctly, it was voted on at the next I.O.U. meeting. With I.O.U. endorsement it was presented to the Legislature.

I often wonder what happened to that painting.

*127 Oak Circle, Gadsden, Alabama 35901*



*Oil painting of American Goldfinch by Althea Sherman  
Photo courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa--Des Moines*



*recycled paper*